■ BUSINESS / B1

First Pacific offers to buy 40% of Del Monte for $163M

ABS-CBN profit down 9% in 3rd quarter

■ WORLD / A10

3 hotels in Jordan bombed; 57 killed, 110 hurt

■ NEWS / A2

Purge of lawmakers who voted for GMA impeachment starts

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, November 11, 2005 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 336 P18
website: www.inq7.net

New gov't rules on dual citizenship elate Fil-Ams

By TJ Burgonio

THOUGH "UPSET" ABOUT THE LINGERING political crisis back home, Filipino-Americans are aching to go back to the Philippines, retrace their roots and touch base with relatives.

Now, revised immigration rules will

NEW/A8

Black & White Movement red-faced over porn website

By Christine Avendaño and Jamie Alarcon

IBANG BLACK AND WHITE YAN!!!

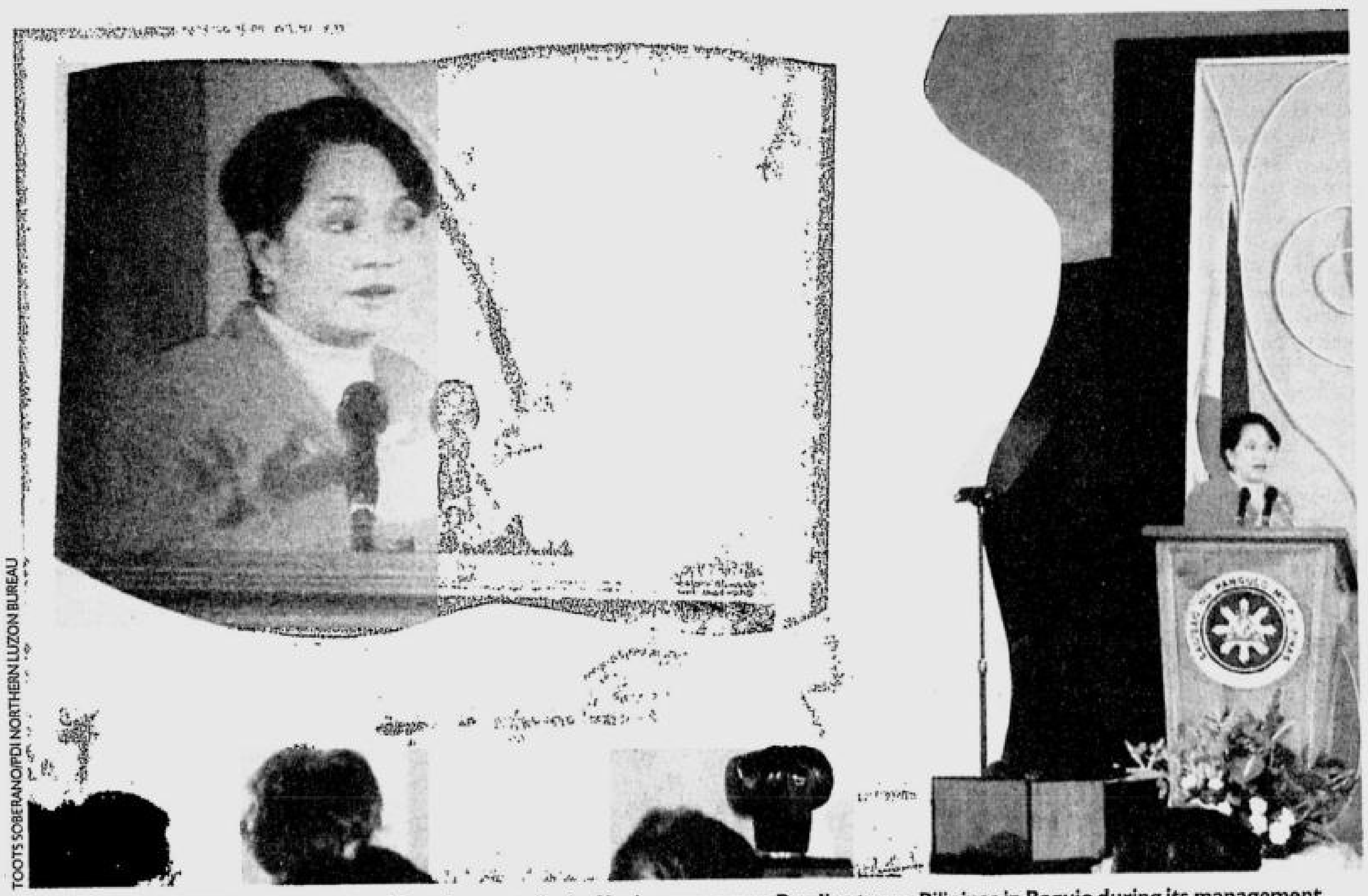
IF THE INTENTION WAS to jolt the senses, they sure achieved it.

Friends and foes of the Black and White Move-

BLACK/ A8

GMA to media: Focus on winners, not losers

Combative speech delivered before top broadcast execs



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

THE BIG BAD NEWS is a no-no, President Arroyo tells the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas in Baguio during its management conference. Report only her success in balancing the country's debts instead of covering "kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch-hunts."

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday maintained her fighting stance and urged the broadcast industry to shift its coverage from "kangaroo courts" run by "losers" to her success in balancing the country's debts.

Her combative words matching her red suit, Ms Arroyo said the media should start shedding "its bad boy image" by practicing "responsible Philippine journalism" and by refusing to be used by her political enemies in supposed campaigns against her administration.

"I appeal to you not to be used wittingly or unwittingly as pawns in political games, pawns in destabilization," she told the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas' 31st top-level management conference.

The President arrived by airplane at Camp John Hay an hour late for her scheduled 9 a.m. speech and left before noon.

GMA/ A6

President not sorry for leaking Babao story

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo does not regret leaking the identity of the broadcast journalist alleged by the military to have helped bail out a terror suspect.

In a speech yesterday at the 31st top-level management conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, Ms Arroyo defended her action and, for good measure, took a swipe at the "overly sensitive" media. *(See banner story at left.)*

But in his own speech, Eugenio Lopez III, chair of the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., called on the government to stop "tarnishing the image" of media without proof.

"I have been heavily criticized for disclosing a report that a broadcast journalist was influential in bringing out a terrorist," the President said, adding:

"Terrorism is evil and I consider my fight against terror as a duty of my presidency ... which you and I must take seriously.

"I am disappointed when the press is overly sensitive over its prerogatives, when at the same time many of our journalists ... will fire away at anybody even without circumstantial evidence."

The President said the country should "take heed of the media becoming part of the national malaise and hindering development rather than being an im-

PRESIDENT/ A6

'VFA doesn't require Marines' detention in RP'

By Volt Contreras

THE US EMBASSY SAID YESTERDAY there was nothing in the Visiting Forces Agreement that called on the United States to detain in the Philippines the six American servicemen accused of raping a Filipino so long as they would appear when needed in the case against them.

Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said he shared the view expressed by Foreign Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes that the VFA did not specify that US servicemen accused of criminal offenses in the country should be kept here. Paredes said what was required was for these men be present when needed during litigation.

"There's no provision on that. Nothing in it says they remain in the country," said Lussenhop when the INQUIRER sought his comment on Paredes' remarks made on Wednesday.

Lussenhop denied that a request had been made to Philippine officials to allow the six servicemen to leave the country for their home base in Okinawa, Japan.

"That's absolutely not true," he said.

On Wednesday, an official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority confirmed that the Americans had made unofficial requests to transfer the accused servicemen to their mother unit

VFA DOESN'T/ A6

Angie Reyes: Don't judge cops based on video

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

INTERIOR SECRETARY ANGELO Reyes is confident police killed three car thieves, not the innocent scions of wealthy families as some sectors seemed to be attempting to portray.

Reyes said allegations of a rubout resulted from the video taken by station UNTV of the latter moments of the police operation when a policeman was seen firing on the Nissan sedan even as the men inside were no longer moving.

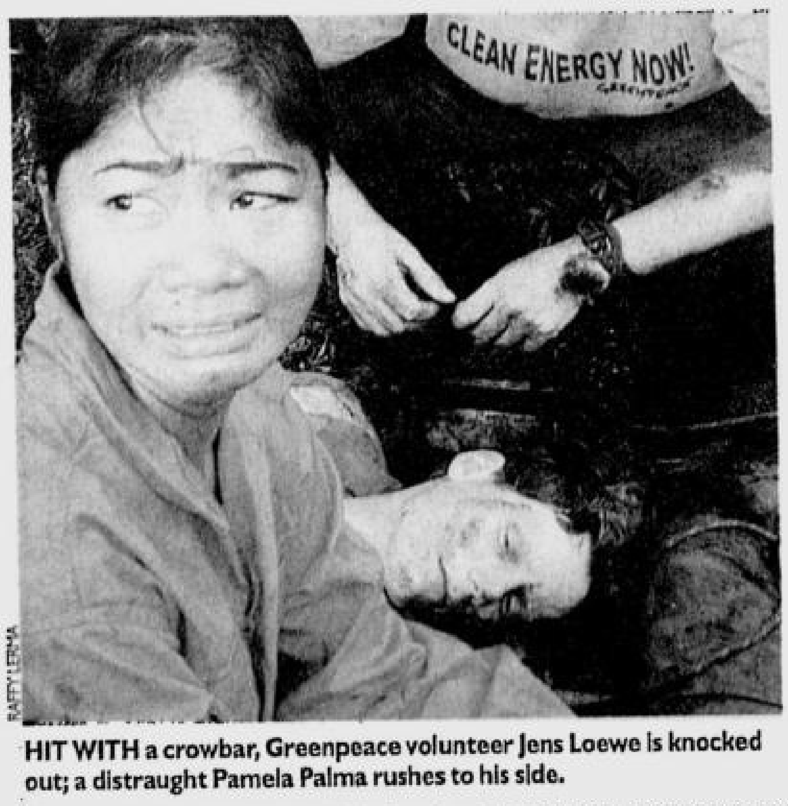
"You cannot judge based on the video alone. You wouldn't know the situation on the ground. The police, they were there," Reyes said.

Brian Anthony Dulay, one of the three killed during the shootout on Garnet Street at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City on Monday, was accused of car theft in 1998 in the Makati Regional Trial Court but the complaint was subsequently withdrawn, Reyes said yesterday.

Also yesterday, a 49-year-old man came forward and told police that Dulay was the man who took his Toyota Prado at gunpoint at 12:30 a.m. on Oct. 2 near the Podium at the Ortigas Center.

Another suspect gunned down, Anton Cu-Unjeng, was identified at the funeral chapel before he was cremated

ANGIE REYES/ A6


CLEAN ENERGY NOW!

RAFFY LERMA

HIT WITH a crowbar, Greenpeace volunteer Jens Loewe is knocked out; a distraught Pamela Palma rushes to his side.

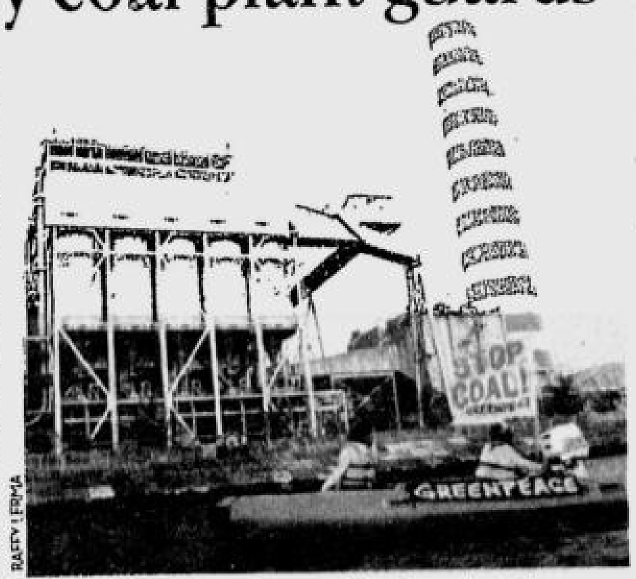
German Greenpeace member beaten up by coal plant guards

MASINLOC, ZAMBALES—A GERMAN volunteer for Greenpeace was badly beaten by armed guards yesterday during a demonstration against global warming at the Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, according to the environmental group.

The protest at the state-run Masinloc coal plant turned violent when a group of 16 Greenpeace activists entered the compound at about 8 a.m. to display a banner reading "Stop climate change."

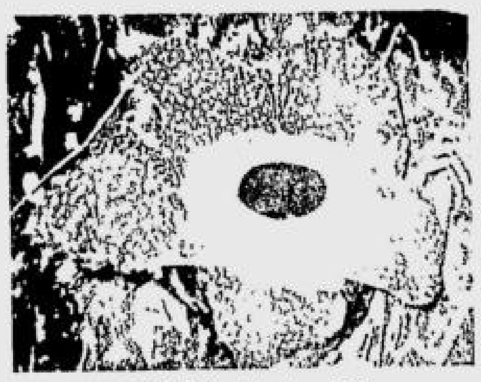
National Power Corp., which operates the 600-megawatt coal plant, said it had always been willing to sit down and dialogue

GERMAN/ A19



RAFFY LERMA

GREENPEACE environmentalists barge into the coal-fired Masinloc power plant in Zambales.



MAGNIFICENT. The National Museum botany division discovers a "critically" endangered flower which has the world's largest bloom in an undisclosed barangay in Maragusan, Compostela Valley.

World's largest bloom

By Charles E. Buban

AN UNIDENTIFIED SPECIES OF RAFFLESIA, a rare flower known for having the world's largest bloom, has turned up in a forest in Compostela Valley in Mindanao.

This was confirmed by a team of botanists headed by Dr. Domingo Madulid, a curator at the National Museum's botany division.

Madulid proposed the name *Rafflesia magnifica* for the newly discovered species.

He said a scientific paper had been submitted to Blumea, a Netherlands-based journal on plant taxonomy and plant geography, which verifies and officially recognizes the discovery of new plant species.

"The team's discovery of such a rare and critically endangered flower in the municipality of Maragusan shows the critical need to protect the area," Madulid said.

He asked the INQUIRER not to reveal the

WORLD'S/ A19

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 a.m. yesterday, tropical storm ONDOY was estimated at 220 km east northeast of Virac, Catanduanes with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph. It is expected to move west northwest at 22 kph.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/11/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Purge of pro-impeach solons starts

By Michael Lim Ubac

SIGNALING THE START OF A POST-IMPEACHment purge of critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the ruling coalition in the House of Representatives late Wednesday removed Rep. Roilo Golez (Parañaque) as chair of the committee on defense and national security.

Rep. Jose Solis (Kampi, Sorsogon), who had voted in favor of junking the impeachment complaints against the President, was elected to replace Golez.

Golez, who called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo, voluntarily gave up the committee chairmanship at the height of the congressional inquiry into the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in which the two were alleged to be conspiring to fix the vote in 2004.

The defense committee was one of the five House committees that investigated the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (NP, Cavite), chair of the committee on public information which led the inquiry, is also set to be replaced by Rep. Rodolfo Antonino (Kampi, Nueva Ecija).

The issue of a post-impeachment House reorganization became so contentious that Speaker Jose de Venecia at one point found himself facing a challenge to his leadership from within the ruling Lakas-CMD.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay threatened to wrest the speakership from De Venecia if the latter failed to institute "reforms" in the chamber in the next two weeks.

De Venecia yesterday said the "post-impeachment jockeying for posts" was coming to an end.

He said he had strengthened his grip on the House leadership after winning an "overwhelming vote of confidence when members crossed party lines to vote down a motion declaring all seats in the chamber vacant."

The vote, taken after the roll call with 149 members present, crushed an apparent bid to replace the entire leadership after a motion to declare all seats vacant was filed on Oct. 12.

"There is no mistaking what this vote means. Speaker De Venecia remains without any serious challenger, and this is a vote for continuing with our agenda of economic and political reforms to unleash the country's potential," said Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte).

The House reorganization was off to a bad start when the plenary elected Solis despite the absence of a quorum, prompting a protest from Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra (LP, Palawan).

A member of the administration coalition, Mitra questioned the haste with which Solis was "placed as committee chair."

But Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, the presiding officer, ruled that the election of House officers was not subject to a vote.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles explained to reporters that the election of standing committee chairs was a "prerogative of the leadership."

"When the majority leader nominates a chairman, it's not subject to a vote or division of the House. Election is final and cannot be questioned," said Nograles.

Mitra said the logical choice to replace Golez should be his party mate Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon ,or Rep. Belma Cabilao (Lakas, Zamboanga Sibugay), who are both vice chairs of the defense committee.

To which Nograles riposted: "Is he (Biazon) still (a member of the) administration? We can't afford anti-administration congressmen to chair House committees."

Various ruling coalition members are vying for five committee chairmanships and the post of deputy speaker for Luzon, whose current holders are among the 51 House members who voted to impeach the President on Sept. 6.

Only 1 of 8 terror suspects enters plea

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE FIRST HEARING OF THE rebellion case the justice department filed last week against several terror suspects ended with a not guilty plea and seven appeals lodged.

Only one of the eight detained suspects tagged as members of the homegrown Abu Sayyaf terror group and the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist network was arraigned in a Makati court yesterday, after his fellow detainees asked the court to reconsider their indictment on non-bailable charges of rebellion.

In the sala of Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Encarnacion Moya, Malik Alimuddin, the only suspect to have private lawyers, entered a plea of not guilty to the rebellion charges.

After he was read the charges in Filipino, Alimuddin with the assistance of his counsel, Raymund Palad, entered a not guilty plea.

The court, meanwhile, deferred the proceedings for the seven others, after Ramoncito Ocampo, their assigned counsel from the Public Attorney's Office, appealed Moya's order finding probable cause in the rebellion case filed by the Department of Justice.

Ocampo represents Hilarion Santos, alleged Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) founder, one of the latter's wives Hannah Santos, Nururrija Amdal, Mursidi Balao, Ismael Idiris, Anne Anover and Bodot Abdulla.

Along with Alimuddin, the seven are detained at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isalf) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"There was no preliminary investigation conducted. After I spoke with my clients, they said they only came to know just now about the rebellion charges they faced... This is to avoid the hasty and malicious prosecution of the accused," said Ocampo.

Ocampo told the court he would file a motion for reconsideration to seek the court's review of the criminal information lodged against his clients.

Moya scheduled the hearing on Ocampo's motion for Nov. 15, and tentatively reset the arraignment of the seven accused to Nov. 29.

State prosecutors, meanwhile, said the motion was welcome, although they said the detainees were informed of their criminal liability during inquest proceedings at Camp Aguinaldo.

"During inquest, it's normal for the accused to have no lawyers, because it's not our fault that when they were arrested they did not have lawyers," said Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

At least 13 others facing terror charges remain at large, including Abu Sayyaf leaders Khaddafy Janjalani and Jainal Sali, alias Abu Solaiman, and Santos's younger brother, Tyrone David Santos, better known as Dawud.

The younger Santos was present during the hearing but stayed at the back. His lawyer had filed a separate motion for the court to determine whether he and his sister-in-law, Fatima Santos, were properly indicted.

FG's farm workers decry nonpayment of salaries

CLAIMING THEY HAD NOT been receiving the minimum wage or holiday pay for the past three years, 24 farmer-laborers at First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's Hacienda Bacan in Isabela, Negros Occidental, yesterday filed a complaint with the regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment.

"Mike Arroyo has stripped us of our right to a decent salary and a decent life," said Ricardo Gargantiel, chair of the Hacienda Bacan Farmers-Beneficiaries Association and an official of the national peasant federation Task Force Mapalad.

He said the 157-hectare sugar estate with a total of 68 farm workers was classified as a "plantation sugar enterprise" and should therefore provide its workers a daily minimum wage of P180 as ordered by the Tripartite Regional Wages and Productivity Board last June 18.

"We are only paid a salary for six months of the year. If you compute it, our annual salary is only P11,400. This means that most of us only have a budget of P31 a day for the needs of our families. Who would survive on P31?" Gargantiel said.

The hacienda was one of several Arroyo landholdings President Macapagal-Arroyo promised to give up to the agrarian reform program in 2001.

Jerome Aning

MESSAGES

My warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. as you hold the 7th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.

I commend your institution for your noble goal of educating and training our medical doctors in treating diabetes, a degenerative disease that afflicts many of our countrymen.

Now, more than ever, we need to join hands and intensify our efforts to ensure that all Filipinos live healthy and productive lives. The masteral program that you offer complement our government's health programs and bring new meaning to our thrust to hasten our country's healing and rebuilding process.

As you hold this occasion, may your institute grow stronger from within to enable you to do and accomplish more for the health and well-being of our people, especially, of the marginalized sectors of society. Together, let us beat the odds and achieve our common goals under the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan.

More power and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President - Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. on the holding of their 7th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture on Diabetes.

The contribution of both local and international experts in the management and treatment of diabetes in the country through clinical investigation and research has greatly improved the quality of life of those who are afflicted with the disease.

It is hoping that the new knowledge that will be shared by experts in this event will again translate into improvement of the everyday practice of the health care provider for the benefit of our diabetic patients and their families.

I exhort you to continue your efforts in achieving excellence and enhancing the health and well being of our countrymen.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

The Institute for Studies on Diabetes was conceived in an environment filled with pressing need.

- Need for doctors to better understand a disease gone wild & threatening the very lives of many Filipinos
- Need for patients to be educated & treated by diabetologists who are properly prepared to tackle this enormous job.
- Need for a center of excellence in diabetes that can generate continuing up-dated interest among health care personnel - doctors, nurses, dieticians, social workers, etc. without losing the touch of humane-concern heaven has freely given to many.

Since the foundation's creation in 1989, we have seen an almost unbelievable response from physicians coming from all parts of the archipelago expressing an unselfish desire to share in the care of Filipino diabetics far & wide. In 17 years of existance the spirit has not dwindled but instead has become so contagious and it has inspired the putting up of a 2-3 storey building to house its various needs including the many organizations it has helped evolve in the greater fight expected ahead. The Alumni association, the Philippine Society of Diabetologists, The Rainbow camp., The Philippine Association of Diabetes Educators, The Association of Diabetes Nurse Educators of the Philippines, The Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics, Diabetes & Foot Workshops & so many more. Relocating in Marikina will strengthen our desire to help in community building & research Education still occupies the greater part of our interest. The opportunities in the future appear endless. We have developed countless friends who have seen our potential, believe in us & have contributed heavily financially towards our various projects. This amazing diabetes institution today fortunately can be found only in the Philippines.

We will need more dedication to face the future successfully. Our Alumni & Friends & The Pharmaceutical Companies supporting us have strengthened our desire to travel the limits of what appears to be one of the greatest challenges to current human existence - diabetes prevention and control. If this thing were of man, it will soon weaken & fall. But right now it appears to have a place in heaven's plans for the good of the Philippines.

RICARDO E. FERNANDO, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
Chairman and President
UERMMMC-ISDFI

Six Years Ago, The UERM-Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation Inc. (ISDFI), and its Alumni arm spearheaded The Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture to honor the pioneering works of the man known as the "Father of Philippine Diabetology", Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando. Through all these years, eminent scientists in the field of Diabetology have graciously shared with us their expertise and delivered outstanding and scholarly lectures. This year, the 7th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecturer is no exception.

We have unanimously chosen to honor us with his presence a prestigious physician and researcher who has done numerous excellent works in the studies of various aspects of diabetes in the United Kingdom. Prof. David Matthews has distinguished himself as a world -renowned key opinion leader most especially on studies involving the Beta Cell and its function. His forth coming dissertation on Beta Cell Dysfunction promises to be another scientific meeting worth looking forward to - one that meets and upholds the standards of a Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.

On a lighter note, the Ricardo E Fernando Professorial Lecture is an avenue for alumni and friends to rekindle and relive fond memories of days gone by and the fruitful years that followed as missionaries of diabetes care. This year's fellowship night, chaired by the indefatigable Dr. Edwin Liwanag, aptly selected "ISD Goes to the Olympics" as this year's theme.

With the awareness that diabetes is on the verge of growing into pandemic proportions, lifestyle modification has always been a cornerstone of therapy both for frank diabetics and the pre-diabetic population. Exercise, as highlighted by sports activities featured in the Olympics will appropriately emphasize the importance of lifestyle modification both in the prevention and treatment of diabetes. Truly, this is going to be a well balanced fellowship night, with a tinge of things that are not only relevant, but fun and enjoyable as well.

In behalf of the ISDFI, UE- Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation Inc. Alumni Association, The Philippine Society of Diabetologists and the organizing committee, I invite each and everyone to join us as we proudly celebrate the 7th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.

AGNES T. CRUZ, MD, MS, FPCP
Convention Chair

The UERMMMC- Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. (UERMMMC-ISDFI)
The Philippine Society of Diabetologists, Inc. (PSDI)
The UE-ISDFI Alumni Assocaition, Inc. (UE-ISDFIAAI)

7th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture

November 12, 2005, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

Programme

MORNING SESSION

7:00 - 8:30 am	*Registration*
8:30 am	*Opening of Exhibits*
9:00 am	*Invocation* Luinio S. Tongson, MD, FPCS, FPSGS *Philippine National Anthem* *I.S.D.F.I. Hymn* Edwin E. Liwanag, MD, MS, FPCP *Welcome Remarks* Agnes T. Cruz, MD, MS, FPCP Convention Chair
9:15-10:15 am	*Introduction of the Speaker* Editha Arceo-Dalisay, MD,MS, FPCP Institute Secretary, UERMMMC - ISDFI *INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP* Speaker: Prof. Jacinto C. Gavino, Jr. *Coffee Break*
10:30 am-12:00nn	*Introduction of the 7th R.E.F. Professorial Lecturer* Araceli A. Panelo, MD, MS, FPCP Executive Director, UERMMMC - ISDFI *7th R.E.F. Professorial Lecture:* The Natural History of the ß-cell in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Speaker: Prof. David Richard Mathews *Awarding of Medal* *Visiting of Exhibits*

EDITHA ARCEO-DALISAY, MD, MS, FPCP
EMCEE

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:00 - 2.00 pm	*Lunch Break / Business Meeting* Richard Elwyn V. Fernando, MD, MS President, UE - ISDFI Alumni
2:00 - 3:00 pm	*Lecture: "CHANGING CONCEPTS IN DIABETES"* Ricardo E. Fernando, MD,FPCP,FPSEM Chairman & President, UERMMMC-ISDFI
3:00 - 3:20 pm	*Reports on the New ISDFI Building* Araceli A. Panelo, MD, MS, FPCP Executive Director, UERMMMC-ISDFI
3:20 pm	*Closing Remarks* Ricardo E. Fernando, MD,FPCP,FPSEM Chairman & President, UERMMMC-ISDFI *Visit of Exhibits*

RIMA T. TAN, MD, MS, FPCP
EMCEE

EVENING SESSION

7.00 pm	*7th Annual Homecoming & Fellowship Night* Theme: ISDFI GOES TO THE OLYMPICS

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Concom to hold nationwide poll on cutting GMA's term

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION WILL HOLD a nationwide poll to feel the public pulse on whether cutting short President Macapagal-Arroyo's term of office should be written into the transitory provisions of an amended Constitution.

Concom Deputy Secretary General Romela Bengzon said the body would conduct a final round of consultations nationwide before it tackles the final part of its job which is to determine how to phase in the changes in the Constitution.

"We will ask leaders and representatives in all regions whether the transitory provision should touch on the term of the President," said Bengzon.

The question of whether the President should serve only part of her current six-year term has become the key sticking point in the Charter change discussions.

A number of political leaders see the shortening of the President's term as the sacrifice that she has to make to finally resolve the political crisis brought on by doubts about whether she had won the 2004 polls.

Bengzon said the Concom has made the transitory provisions its "end-game" agenda in anticipation of the heated debates on the issue of the President's term.

This is the reason the Concom has decided not to entertain any questions on the effect of constitutional reforms on the length of the President's continued stay in office in the ongoing consultations that has taken the body to key cities and provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Bengzon said the body wanted to settle first three key reform issues in the Constitution—whether to retain the presidential or shift to a parliamentary system; maintain a centralized governmental structure or move to a federal structure, and keep the citizenship requirements or lift alien restrictions on investments.

So far, the Concom's consultations have shown that a decided majority want a parliamentary and federal system. But the public's position on the lifting of foreign exchange restrictions have been mixed.

Bengzon said the Concom would make the second round of consultations a week or two before the Dec. 15 deadline for it to submit its final list of recommended amendments to Malacañang.

Quezon folk's evacuation urged

DISASTER OFFICIALS YESTERDAY URGED Quezon provincial officials to evacuate residents of low-lying areas ahead of tropical storm "Ondoy."

Maj. Gen. Glen Rabonza (ret.), administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, said the OCD had rescue and relief equipment in place in the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in anticipation of the storm.

The towns were among those hit by massive landslides last December where some 1,000 people were killed. In a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Rabonza said Quezon officials were given the discretion to order evacuations from low-lying areas.

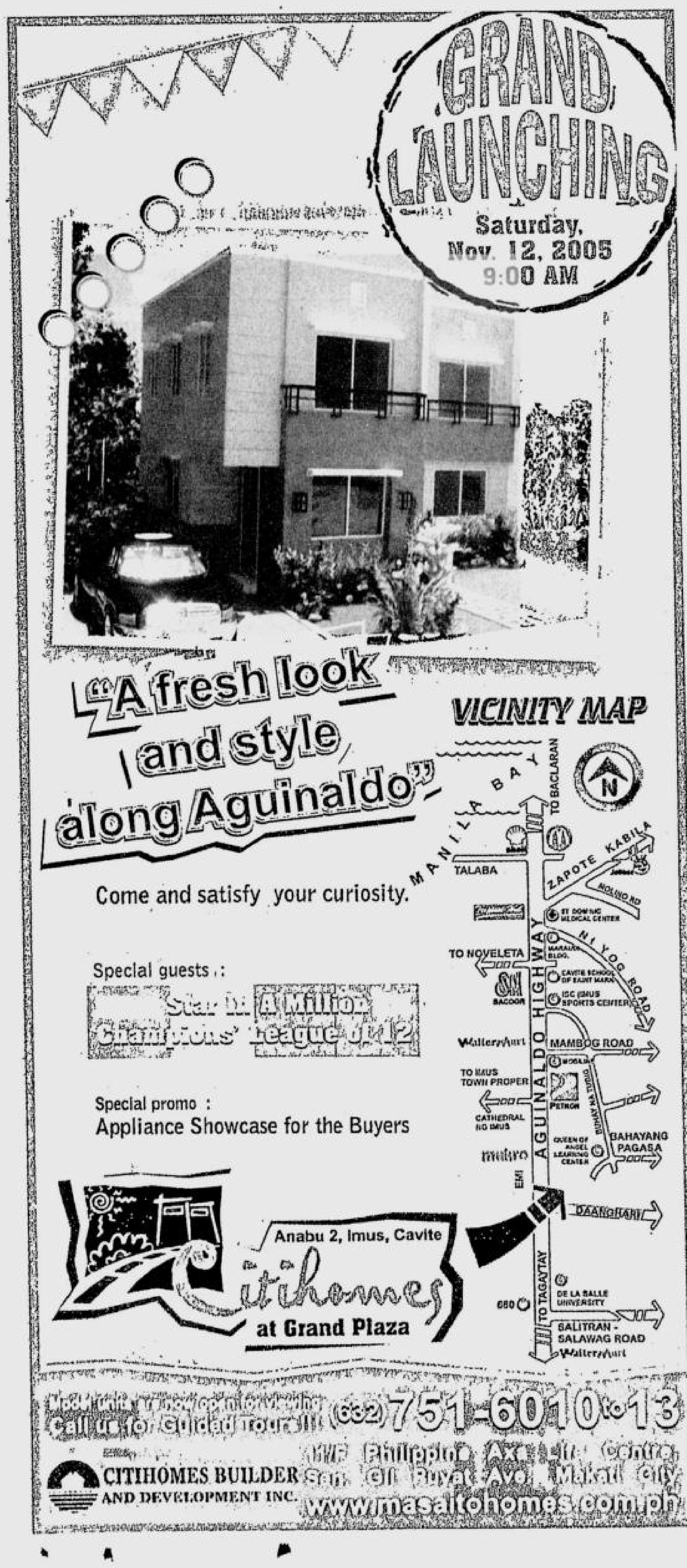
"Contingency plans are in place. We are asking them to take preventive measures so we can achieve zero casualties," he said.

Tropical storm "Ondoy" was spotted by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration off the coast of Casiguran, Aurora, with maximum sustained winds of 85 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kph. It is forecast to move west northwest at 26 kph.

Signal number 2 has been raised over northern Quezon, Polilio Island, Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Ifugao. These areas are expected to experience winds of from 60 kph to 100 kph.

Signal number 1 has been raised over Cagayan, Apayao, Kalinga, Abra, Mountain Province, the Ilocos provinces, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Zambales, Bataan, Camarines Norte, the rest of Quezon, Rizal and Metro Manila. These areas are expected to experience winds of 30-60 kph.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora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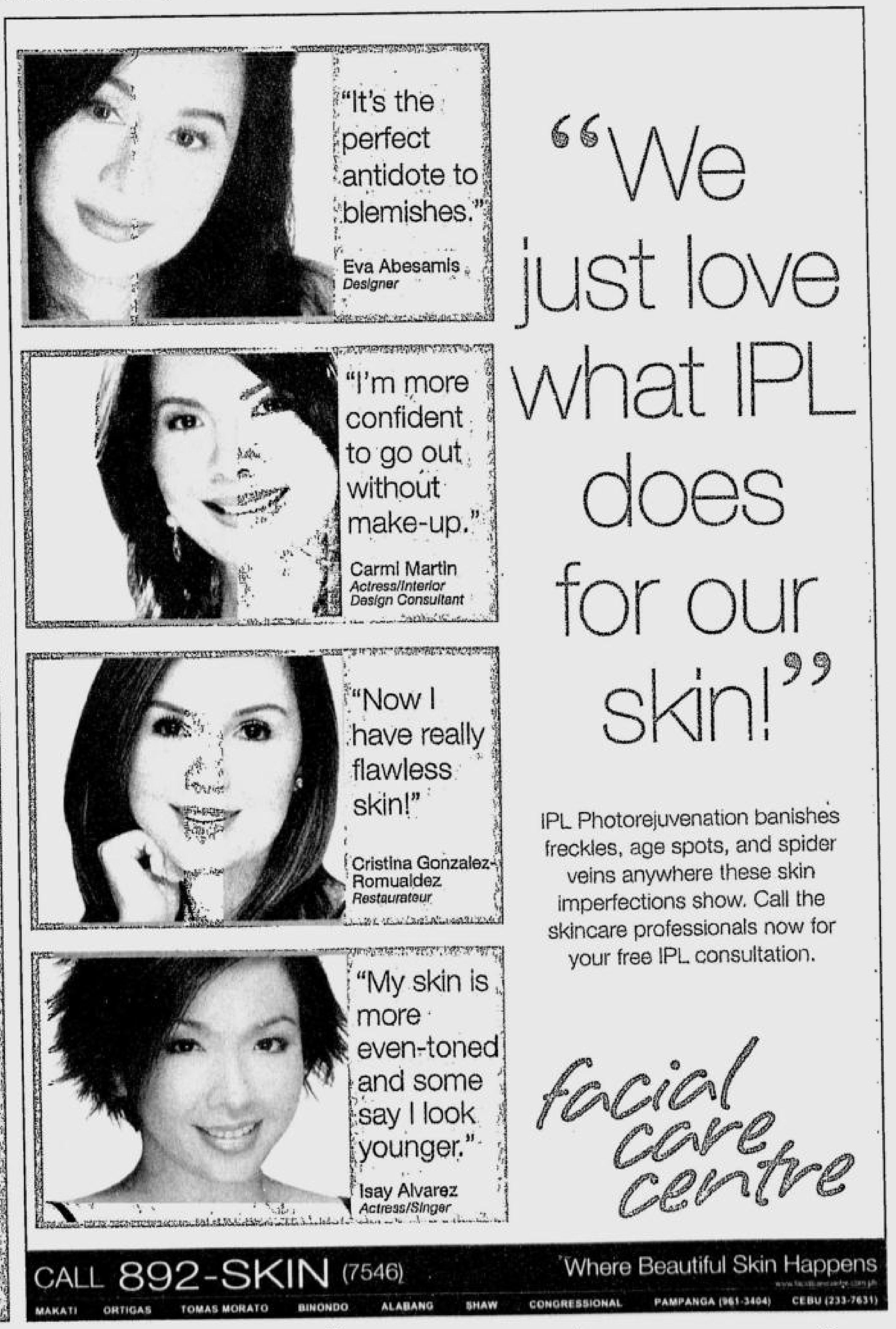
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Militants: OFWs, not VAT, to thank for strong peso

By DJ Yap

THANK FILIPINOS WORKING OVERseas for the strong peso, not the expanded value-added tax.

Militants yesterday scoffed at a suggestion from experts that raising the VAT rate to 12 percent in January would spur the peso to a three-month rally.

"The peso is appreciating because December is the usual time when OFW remittances flow in," said Francisco Nemenzo, chair of the Laban ng Masa militant group and a former president of the University of the Philippines.

"The VAT has nothing to do with it," he said.

As they held simultaneous rallies in parts of Metro Manila and other cities nationwide to call for the scrapping of the VAT, the militants dismissed the "rosy" prediction by experts that a 12-percent VAT next year would result in a bull run by the peso and the stock market.

Jose Veloso, treasurer of Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and Wilson Sy, a former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, suggested the other day that raising the VAT rate in January would boost investor confidence and result in a bull run in the financial markets.

"They are experts in their trade of speculation but not in addressing the real solution to the economic crisis," Nemenzo said in a statement.

'Laban ng Masa said its economists have argued that imposing a consumption tax like the VAT would have direct inflationary effects on the economy, with the poor bearing the brunt of price increases.

They said this would have no direct effect on the currency exchange rate and that the prediction of financial experts was mere speculation and only based on presumed "investor confidence."

Trading in the financial markets is up because investors take their cue from the International Monetary Fund which has long lobbied the government to impose the expanded VAT, the economists are supposed to have said.

Laban ng Masa said the imposition of the expanded VAT was a "political signal" to investors rather than a remedy to the chronic economic problems of the country.

"Should there be bullish trading in the financial markets, this is only temporary because GMA [President Macapagal-Arroyo] has not really gotten over her crisis of political survival. Financial investors are aware of this and they could easily pull out anytime there is a negative political signal," said Wilson Fortaleza of Sanlakas.

UP Law alumni fete set

THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines' Law Alumni Association is holding its annual alumni homecoming on Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

With the theme "A Celebration of Life and Friendship," the event is hosted by this year's silver jubilarians, the UP Law '80 Foundation.

Foundation president Raoul Angangco said, "The event promises to be a gathering of the most prominent legal eagles of our times."

Ticket inquiries may be made with Dang Teves at tel. 818-9836, Helen Bengil at 897-2136, or the class representatives.

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Paying Estrada's way form of bribery, says prosecutor

MEMBERS OF ATENEO HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1955 would be committing the crime of bribery if they pay for the cost of transporting detained ex-President Joseph Estrada to the Meralco Theater to attend a concert to mark the class' golden jubilee, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio warned yesterday.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division is hearing a petition from Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag to allow the deposed leader to attend the class reunion.

Five of Estrada's classmates appeared before the court on Wednesday to support Saguisag's motion and offered to shoulder the expense, estimated at P500,000, of transporting Estrada from his Tanay estate where he is under detention to the Meralco Theater on Ortigas Ave. in Pasig City.

In his comment on the petition, Villa-Ignacio told the magistrates hearing Estrada's plunder and perjury cases that "to accept the offer of accused Estrada's classmates would be tantamount to committing the crime of bribery."

"Whatever amount that might be offered by accused Estrada's classmates in order to defray his expenses to secure his safety in coming to Manila on Nov. 15, 2005, can be construed as a consideration to obtain a favorable resolution of his motion," Villa-Ignacio said.

He said the antigraft court's special division should deny Saguisag's motion for "lack of merit."

Villa-Ignacio argued that to grant Estrada's motion would violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

He said that despite the privilege accorded a former chief of state, Estrada was "still a detention prisoner that should not be treated differently from other detention prisoners."

He also noted that Estrada could not be considered a member of Ateneo High School Class of 1955 since he was expelled from the Ateneo and did not finish his secondary studies there.

"At most, Estrada would only be a guest of the Ateneo High School Class of 1955," he said.

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Loren's protest delayed again

THE SUPREME COURT HAS POSTPONED anew the recount of votes for the 2004 vice presidential election in order to act on a pending motion of former Sen. Loren Legarda to exclude the votes from Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur from her election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

The recount of votes for Lanao del Sur was supposed to have started yesterday, but the high court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), said it had yet to act on her earlier motion.

The PET originally set the recount of votes for Lanao del Sur on Oct. 18 but postponed this to Nov. 10.

Last week, Legarda filed a motion asking the PET to allow her to withdraw the two Mindanao provinces from her protest and instead use the cash deposits covering the two provinces toward the recount of the votes in Cebu. De Castro won over Legarda by 900,000 votes in Cebu.

In this way, Legarda said, she hoped to facilitate the recount of the votes in Cebu, where alleged massive cheating took place, and overturn De Castro's nationwide lead of 880,000.

She also lamented the slow pace of the recount.

"Admittedly, I was saddened that the recount, which should have started yesterday covering the province of Lanao del Sur, had been postponed anew," Legarda said.

"But I have complete faith that the Supreme Court would finally get the recount going so that the Filipino people may once and for all know who really won the vice presidential election last year," she said.

Legarda blamed De Castro for delaying the court proceedings. She pointed out her protest had been dragging on for a year and a half. She asked the PET to speed up the process.

Cynthia D. Balana

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 11, 2005
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Wis 13:1-9
Gospel:	Luke 17:26-37

Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be on the day the Son of Man comes. Then people ate and drank; they took husbands and wives. But on the day Noah entered the ark, the flood came and destroyed them all. Just as it was in the days of Lot: people ate and drank, they bought and sold, planted and built. But on the day Lot left Sodom, God made fire and sulfur rain down from heaven which destroyed them all. So will it be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

"On that day, if you are on the rooftop, don't go down into the house to get your belongings, and if you happen to be in the fields, do not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever tries to save his life will lose himself, but whoever gives his life will be born again.

"I tell you, though two men are sharing the same bed, it may be that one will be taken and the other left. Though two women are grinding corn together, one may be taken and the other left."

Then they asked Jesus, "Where will this take place, Lord?" And he answered, "Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather."

Commentary

Jesus speaks much more clearly, pushing his disciples to recognize the seriousness of what he is saying, comparing the days ahead to those of Noah as he made the ark as those around him mocked him and the flood came. And again, Sodom is presented with its ruin of fire. The Son of Man will come in judgment and we must not be paralyzed with fear. Instead we must give our life now and everyday and make faithfulness to the Word our practice. But we do not know the time, any of us. What we know, is that we must be converted and be baptized and then continue in that way of the cross all our days. Like Martin who left the military to be baptized and then became a hermit, a monk, a bishop and someone who tirelessly defended heretics and suffered for protecting them, we must change again and again, radically as we come to see people in need of our love and service.

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GMA to media: Focus on winners, not losers

From page A1

Secretary Cerge Remonde, head of the government mass media group and a former KBP president, introduced Ms Arroyo as the only President who had nurtured a very close relationship with the organization of broadcasters.

In response, she said: "Let us use this closeness to shape a better future for the country."

But the President had biting words for her audience.

"The coverage of kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch-hunts assails the peace of mind and the hope of our people," she said in her speech.

"The public wants winners. You know that, because you always watch your ratings ... The economy is the only winner here today, against those losers who carry no public mandate."

She was apparently referring to the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability, where evidence of her alleged involvement in election fraud and other crimes had been presented.

The congress was organized by the multisectoral Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan.

P37-B savings

Ms Arroyo said few media outfits had reported the fact that her administration saved P37 billion as a result of her effort to maintain a balanced deficit ceiling because of the strong peso, "a better [treasury] bond structure," and skillful management of the treasury.

"Give us now the best opportunity to give the good news to the people so we can reap their confidence," she told the KBP.

Ms Arroyo also said the public should be told that the bulk of her revenue-generating measures would not be derived from taxes, such as the expanded value-added tax, but from a streamlined budget and bureaucracy.

She said that the government was using its public works budget this year to build infrastructure, and that all of its allocations for education, defense and social services were being used as Congress had intended because Malacañang had balanced its spending for this year.

Press freedom

The President's speech drew polite applause and critical comments from an audience of journalists.

"This is a democracy deal. Everyone has accepted it, and a part of the deal is press freedom," BusinessWorld columnist Vergel Santos said.

He also observed that Ms Arroyo was angry at the media and wanted to rewrite the government's terms of engagement with it.

According to Luis Teodoro, a journalism professor at the University of the Philippines, the President "does not understand [that] the responsibility of a journalist is to give information to the people [and] not to report simply because it does not favor the government."

But the President's men were quick to defend Ms Arroyo's stance.

Remonde said in a phone interview that Ms Arroyo was just "articulating the sentiments of people, like the business community."

"I think she has every right to criticize the media and express her sentiments, as we are doing," he said, adding that the media should "never construe [the President's statements] as a threat to press freedom."

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's political adviser, said the media should take "her gripe for what it is: A frank and honest expression of frustration over the country's missed opportunities for economic advancement, harmony and the improvement of our national image abroad because of the propensity of some sectors of the media to magnify or be fixated on negative occurrences and issues, instead of projecting the good things happening in the country."

At the KBP conference, Eugenio Lopez III, chair of the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., said there were points about the organization that needed to be reviewed.

He said that because it had become "easy" to resign from the KBP and be "beyond the reach of its self-regulatory code," the organization's regulation function was now "lost" and its relevance open to challenge.

However, Lopez said, the KBP's decision to withdraw its membership in the Advertising Board showed its resolve to adopt reforms in order to function independently of other institutions.

Blocked protesters

"Our main duty, our main loyalty, should be to the Filipino people. They are our audience whose needs, whose wants, whose welfare, should be our topmost concern. They look to us to help them level the playing field not just with government bureaucrats but [also with] other parts of society," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Baguio police led by a member of the Presidential Security Group blocked 80 members of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a convenor of the Gloria Step Down Movement, from holding a protest rally at Camp John Hay.

The CPA members, all wearing red shirts, converged on the picnic grove of Burnham Park at 8 a.m. expecting to be ferried to Camp John Hay in jeepneys. But the city police dissuaded them from proceeding there.

Imelda Tabiando, spokesperson for the Dinteg Alternative Law Center, said she and the other protesters pleaded to be allowed to rally at the Baguio Convention Center instead.

But at Sunshine Park on their way to the convention center, they were blocked by police carrying truncheons and shields. *Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Christine O. Avendaño in Manila*

President not sorry for leaking Babao story

From page A1

portant solution to our problems."

She did not name the broadcaster, but she appeared to be referring to ABS-CBN anchor Julius Babao.

The INQUIRER had earlier reported that in a conversation with columnist Ramon Tulfo, the President named Babao as having bailed out terror suspect Tyrone "Dawud" Santos in April. She based her disclosure on a report of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which she described as "very disturbing."

Both Babao and ABS-CBN have denied the allegation.

The Isafp subsequently admitted that all it had against Babao was circumstantial evidence.

Public trust

Speaking at the same conference, Lopez came to Babao's defense.

He said ABS-CBN had conducted an internal investigation of Babao and could not find evidence to prove Ms Arroyo's allegation.

He rued the apparent smear on Babao's reputation, saying: "Like [politicians], our most important asset is continued public trust. But unlike them, the public votes every hour, every minute, as to who among the broadcasters available they will trust enough to listen to."

Lopez said that if Babao were guilty of anything, it could be "overzealousness" in covering the story of Santos, who gave the broadcaster an exclusive interview after being released on bail on April 26.

'Drag to democracy'

The President warned that Philippine media could become "a drag to democracy rather than a force of freedom" if it would start to retreat from its role as "a watchdog of the government and the economy" by putting too much emphasis on the negative.

"We must admit that some sectors of the media are pushing the negative stories too far and too often," she said.

But Lopez said that in the end, it was not the media's fault if "everyone, it seems, is more interested in putting a spin to [a fact, to the point where] all credibility is lost."

"No one trusts anyone in society anymore. Issues like the E-VAT (expanded value-added tax) and rising oil prices are inflammatory by themselves," he said.

Lopez said it was "ironic that, in an age where international media [are] concerned about the effect of high technology in mass media, we have not gone beyond the concept of mass media as a proxy for old-fashioned town meetings."

"It is easy under this setting for broadcasters to be accused of personal motives behind their reports," Lopez said.

'Fueling anger'

He added: "It is almost impossible to report an event or a social condition such as mass poverty without being accused of ulterior motives or ideological bias ... But we know we will not be able to satisfy everyone, least of all those whose interests are negatively affected by our search for truth."

In opening the conference at Camp John Hay, KBP board chair Joselito Yabut said the organization was ready to cure an industry filled with "volcano-spewing" commentators who were supposedly fueling "the people's anger" and "add[ing] to the confusion."

Yabut said Philippine society could not be molded by a media industry that was promoting anger rather than dialogue.

He said the KBP conference was aimed at drawing insights to enable its members to shape news in a "good governance" context.

'VFA doesn't require Marines' detention in RP'

From page A1

based in Okinawa.

Lussenhop maintained that the servicemen were still in the Philippines under US custody and that "we will honor" the terms of the VFA with respect to making the accused available for judicial proceedings here.

Paredes meets accused

In a statement last night, the DFA said Paredes earlier met with the six US Marines upon instruction of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"I went to the embassy and saw the six servicemen. The six are in the custody of US embassy officials and under guard," Paredes said.

"This should assure our public that said suspects are in the country," he said.

He said in a television interview that the servicemen told him they would appear in at least three legal proceedings—the preliminary investigation, arraignment and promulgation of the decision.

In a criminal complaint filed in the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office, the 22-year-old Filipino, who requested that her name be withheld, said she was gang-raped inside a Starex van by six Americans at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1. The Americans were from the aircraft carrier USS Essex, which participated in the recent RP-US counterterrorism exercises and departed last Thursday.

The six Marines were served subpoenas on Tuesday to appear before the Olongapo City prosecutor's office on Nov. 23 and 29.

Also yesterday, the embassy said that Eric G. John, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, flew to Manila a day after the mother of the rape victim made an impassioned plea to President Macapagal-Arroyo to "please help my daughter get justice."

He is to meet with Ms Arroyo and Romulo. Arrangements for a call on Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz were also being made.

John is scheduled to give a news conference on Friday at the end of a two-day stop in the course of his first tour of the region since he was appointed in July.

Victim recovering

SBMA officials said the woman, a daughter of a former naval officer and a college graduate from Zamboanga City, had gone to Subic to accompany a stepsister who was meeting her boyfriend. While bar-hopping, she was taken by the Americans to a van, raped and later dumped, intoxicated and almost naked, at the waterfront.

Margarita Sampang, chief of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Luzon, said the woman was "responding positively" to counseling sessions by crisis management specialists.

"Her responses are OK. She's out of the state of shock. She's still sad but is emotionally preparing herself," said Sampang.

A family source said the woman met with her lawyer yesterday, indicating her determination to pursue the case.

'We're mad'

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday warned the United States it could further inflame Filipino emotions and force the Philippines to terminate the VFA if the six servicemen were allowed to leave the country.

"Yes, we're mad. We're about to hit the roof," said Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee and the legislative oversight committee on the VFA.

Santiago said she saw no reason for taking the accused to Okinawa only to bring them back to the country for the trial.

"This places many sub-rosa questions in the mind of the ordinary Filipino public and the last thing you want to do is to inflame the passions that are already running high even higher, that will be achieved if the Marines are transferred during this period," Santiago said.

She admitted, however, that Scott Bellard, deputy chief of mission, had only told her that the US side would ensure that the accused would be produced during the preliminary investigation when their presence was needed.

Cracks in US statement

"I am a lawyer, I very easily read between the lines. There are cracks in the statement. It seemed to me that he was opening a window towards the possibility that they (accused) will be outside of the Philippines except when their presence is demanded," Santiago said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, issued a similar warning.

"It is very clear that the Philippines should maintain primary jurisdiction over this case. If this is not followed, the Senate may recommend the abrogation of the treaty," Biazon said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said nothing would prevent the United States from shipping the servicemen out of the country but said doing this would amount to bad faith.

"They should keep them in the Philippines as much as possible (even) just for show. If you remove them, it sends a message that they are not sincere," Arroyo said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said Ms Arroyo should formally request the US Embassy to turn over custody of the American soldiers "and certify the importance of the rape case."

"Mrs. Arroyo should tell the US government that the US soldiers should be placed under Philippine custody as required by our rules of court and that rape, being a heinous crime in the Philippines, would have to be dealt with with the full force of the law," said Ocampo. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Nikko Dizon, Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, AP*

Angie Reyes: Don't judge cops based on video

From page A1

as the man who had commandeered a Mercedes Benz last month, Reyes said.

Investigation was continuing on the third fatality, Francis Xavier Manzano, although Reyes said that loose license plates, a Jericho pistol and an Ingram submachine gun found in the bullet-riddled car completed the picture of a gang of car thieves.

Senior Insp. Samson Belmonte was wounded in the right leg during the encounter and was recuperating at Medical City in Pasig.

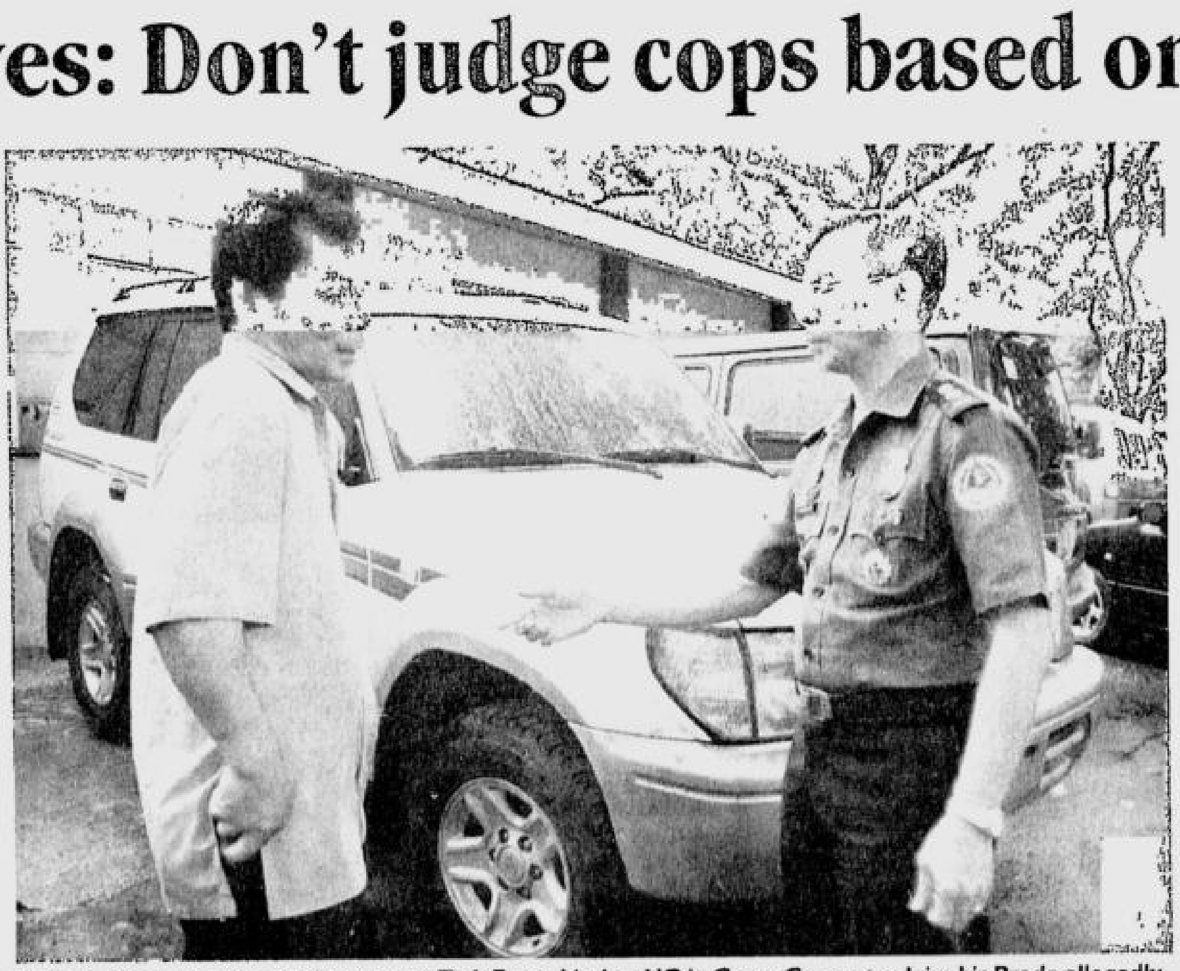
Reyes declined to comment on whether the wealthy families of the three slain men knew about their illegal activities. "These are already family matters," he said.

Video taken from one angle

"Why do they have extra plates? What use would they have for them?" he said. Reyes added that the group's use of a rented car was likewise suspicious.

"Why were they using a rented car when they supposedly came from wealthy families?" Reyes said.

"The video was only taken from one angle," Reyes said.



DRIVER Teodoro Maupoy shows up at Task Force Limbas HQ in Camp Crame to claim his Prado allegedly stolen by the slain Brian Anthony Dulay of the Valle Verde car theft gang. He is met by Limbas chief Senior Supt. Napoleon Pascua.

JOAN BONDOC

"You can only see the front of the vehicle and the policemen slowly approaching. You can't see what was happening at the rear portion," he said.

Reyes recalled the Camp Bagong Diwa siege when suspected Abu Sayyaf leaders took over a part of the police detention center. The police were conducting mopping up operations when a detainee who had feigned death shot and killed an officer, he said.

"You really can't be sure that the tactical situation has ceased," Reyes said.

Good job

Besides, Reyes said, there were other eyewitness accounts supporting the police version of the incident.

"The police did a good job," Reyes said.

Reyes added that it couldn't have been overkill on the part of the police.

"If it were overkill, they would have thrown a grenade inside the car," Reyes said.

A day after relieving 10 officers from their posts pending an inquiry into whether they followed or disregarded rules of engagement during the clash, the Philippine National Police chief ordered them to report back to work.

Refresher courses

"The 10 Task Force Limbas personnel will continue to perform (their) duty, but will be made available when called for investigation by any probe body. The anticarnapping campaign shall continue without letup," Director General Arturo Lomibao said in a statement.

The policemen were identified as Senior Inspectors Henry Cerdon, Hansel Marantan and Belmonte; PO3 Lloyd Soria and Rizalito Ramos; PO2 Dexter Barnadas, Jesus Fermin and Sonny Robrigado, and PO1 Fernando Gapuz and Jose Rey Lucena.

Lomibao also instructed Traffic Management Group head Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan to "conduct refresher courses on police operational procedures for other operatives of the TMG." Task Force Limbas is the TMG unit tasked to go after car thieves.

Senior Supt. Luisito Maralit, the TMG deputy chief for administration who is leading the inquiry, said the committee was set to submit its findings today to Lomibao.

In a phone interview, Maralit reiterated that this was not a criminal inquiry.

"We are here to look into whether rules of engagement were violated. This is not a criminal inquiry," he said.

Also yesterday, the police said the 9mm pistol found inside the suspects' car was registered under a Rodolfo de la Paz of Pasig City. The owner of the second gun, a 9mm Ingram, had not yet been traced.

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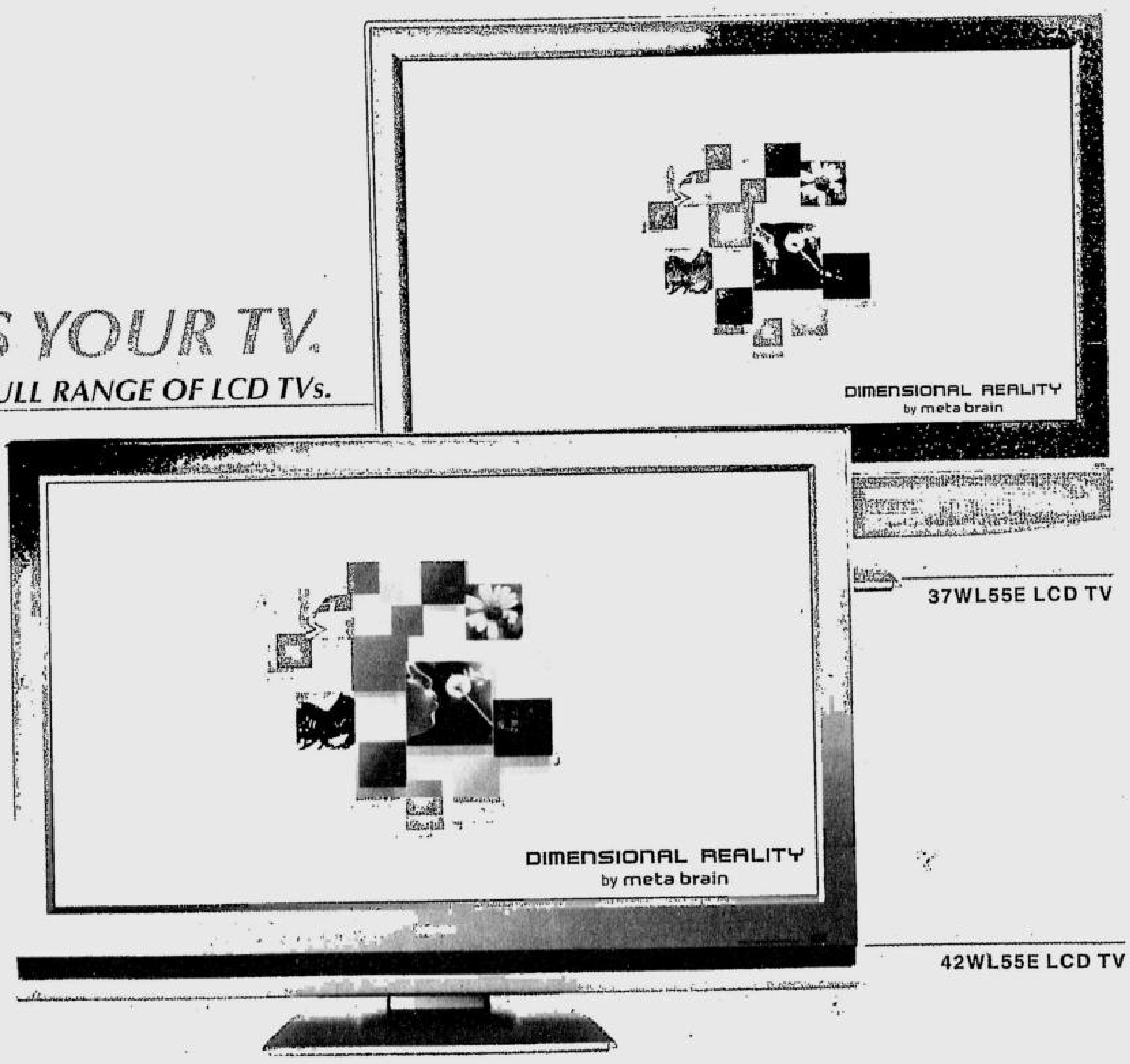
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Intelligent Living TOSHIBA

Black & White Movement red-faced ...

From page A1

ment, a group calling for the nonviolent ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, are finding out that they are getting more than they bargained for in the group's website.

Clicking open blacknwhite.com, the website address of the movement as contained in the full-page ad published in major dailies the other day, one is invited to a provoking read, or in this case, show.

The address leads to a pay-for-porn site featuring interracial sex, far from what the movement had in mind.

"This is an adult site which contains naughty XXX sexually explicit entertainment," the website boasted.

Lapse in judgment

"An honest mistake and a lapse in judgment" was how group convenor Vic "Enteng" Romano III explained the mishap.

Romano said those who prepared the newspaper ad had written down the wrong address, in this case the porn site.

He said the actual website of the movement was blacknwhite-movement.com.

Sabotaged?

The group posted an ad inviting people to join the group in its quest to resolve the political crisis as well as a planned "Gabi ng Kabayanihan" on Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day.

It was Romano himself who registered the name of the movement's website. He said he had wanted the website address to be blacknwhite.com but found out that it had been "taken" and was actually a porn site.

Since the ad's publication on Wednesday, Romano said that he received 30 text messages and calls from friends informing him that the group website led to a porn site.

"They wanted to know the correct website and one even asked whether the group had been sabotaged," Romano said.

He insisted that what happened was "purely accidental."

Equally shocked at this development were the objects of the movement's disaffection—Malacañang officials.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye acknowledged that some members of the Cabinet had alerted him to the shocking website.

While Bunye said he had not visited the site, he assailed the movement's "indecent and immoral attempt at corrupting Filipino morals."

Told that the group already explained that it was an honest mistake, Bunye noted: "Well, in their indecent haste, they committed the mistake."

Disclaimer

The disclaimer on the main page of the controversial site said it all. Besides the usual warning that only people aged 18 and up could view the website, it also stressed that people who were offended by "nudity, images, and artwork, pics of naked women, XXX pics of girls showing their ... and black men showing their ..., and sex between the aforementioned" would do well not to enter.

While most of the content is off-limits without a credit card number, the introduction and registration pages featured cartoons of threesomes and other explicit sex scenes.

The site also has its very own animated tour guide: "Dr. Cooper," a blonde, green-eyed woman with a British accent who calls herself "the world's foremost expert on interracial sex" and invites the web surfer to be her guest "in a guided tour of cuckoldry and blacksexing."

Once in a while

Informed that Malacañang was shocked by the website, Romano couldn't help but add: "At least once in a while, they would get shocked."

Other convenors of the Black & White Movement are Gus Lagman, Leah Navarro, Gerry Kaimo, Bill Luz, Oscar Lagman, Karen Tañada, Sixto Donato Macasaet, Gerry Bulatao, Louie Sison and Triccie Sison.

The movement is calling for a nationwide signature campaign for the nonviolent removal from office of Ms Arroyo, whom it accused of rigging last year's presidential election. The President has denied any wrongdoing.

"Whether she cheated or not is no longer the only issue. The question is whether she should remain in Malacañang without the support of the people," the Black & White Movement said in its ad.

The group wants Vice President Noli de Castro to take over as President and to call a special election in 2007 after a revamp of the Commission on Elections.

If the Vice President is unwilling to take over the presidency, he must resign and let Senate President Franklin Drilon call for special elections, according to the group.

New gov't rules on dual citizenship elate Fil-Ams

From page A1

LOIDA NICOLAS-LEWIS

smooth the way for the Fil-Ams' homecoming dream.

"Thanks to this new requirement, more people like myself can start thinking to come back to the Philippines," US-based Loida Nicolas Lewis told reporters at the Senate recently.

Thanking Drilon

Lewis, together with Undersecretary Jose Molano Jr. of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, called on Senate President Franklin Drilon to thank him for prodding the Bureau of Immigration to relax the rules.

On Nov. 1, the Bureau of Immigration issued a circular requiring Filipino-Americans to merely present old passports, birth certificates, voter's affidavits or marriage contracts, or any document to prove that they were born in the Philippines when reapplying for citizenship.

Old rules

It was a complete departure from the old rules that required applicants to present birth certificates authenticated by the National Statistics Office, a process which the Filipino-Americans found tedious.

Filipinos who live abroad are dismayed with the crisis still roiling the Arroyo administration, Lewis, chair of the Washington-based National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (Naffaa), said.

"Observing the Philippines abroad, we are upset and frustrated that there is a constant intramural going on. We're facing a lot of problems. Why don't we unite and move the country forward?" she said.

But with the relaxation of the rules, Filipino-Americans now have a reason to come home, invest and, eventually, settle here, according to Lewis.

"It's good news for the country because most of us—I'm speaking for my generation—professionals left the country from the '60s, '70s, '80s. Now it's 2005, we have reached the sunset years of our lives and we're starting to think where we will retire. Florida, Southern California, Texas? Why not the Philippines?" she said.

"In the US, we have $1,000 social security benefit. In the Philippines, that is P50,000. So it's better if we come back here."

Owning land

Until the BI relaxed its rules, Filipino-Americans' attempts at starting businesses and acquiring property in the Philippines had been hobbled by their being naturalized Americans, Lewis said.

"The biggest stumbling block is that we're American citizens. Those who made good but left without any land could not acquire land. We can buy a condo but we could not acquire land," she said.

College in Sorsogon

In her case, Lewis established a college in Sorsogon in 1999, but could not own a single share because she was an American citizen.

Of the 2.5 million former Filipino citizens living in the United States, Canada and Australia, only 2,500 have so far availed themselves of dual citizenship because of the "tedious process" at the BI, according to Drilon.

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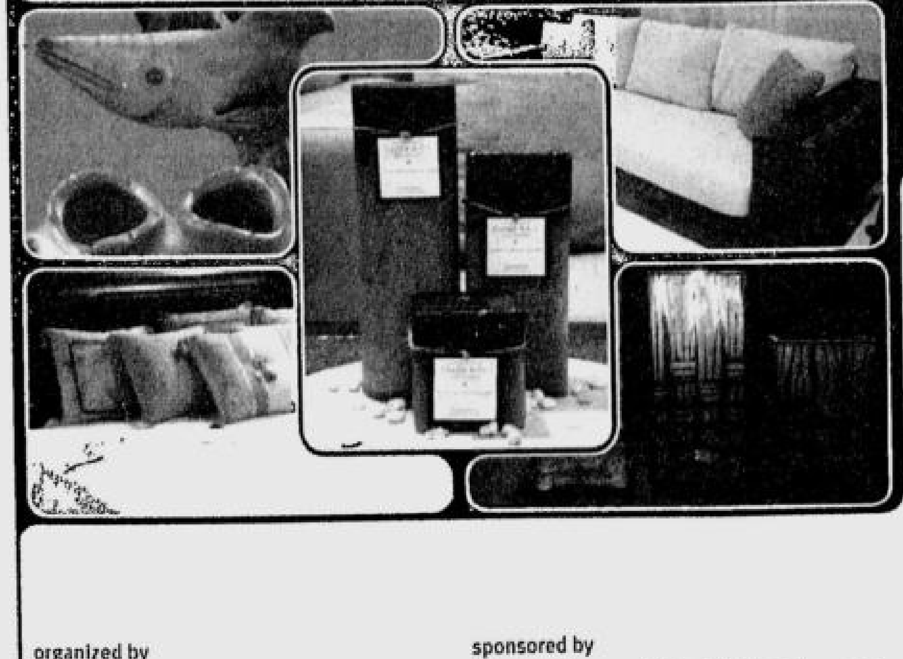

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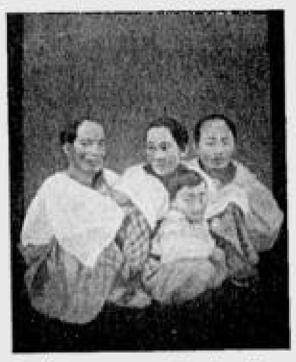

"Larawan Series"
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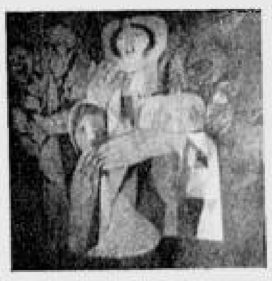

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by MALANG
oil on canvass
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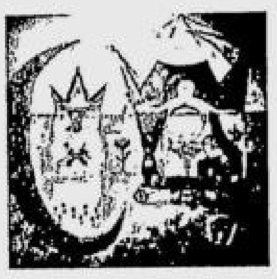
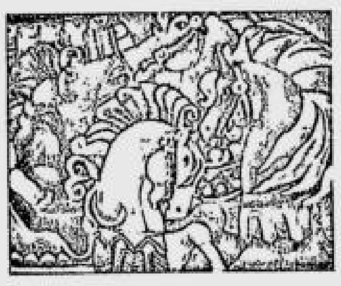


"Magic"
by CHARLIE CO
oil on canvass
122 x 122 cm



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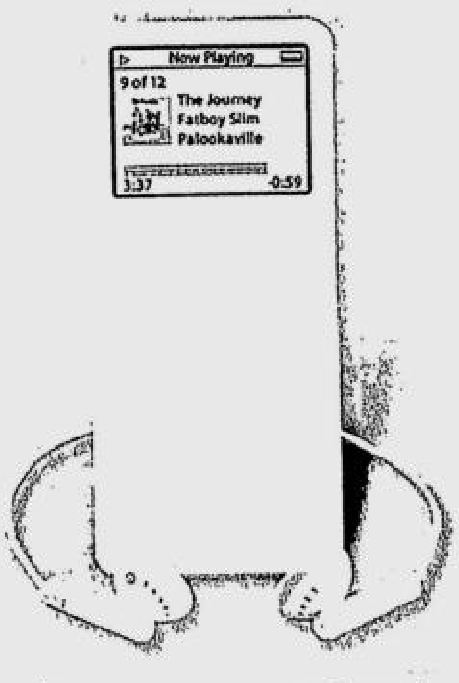

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Triple Jordan hotel bombings kill 57

AMMAN—IRAQ'S AL-QAIDA GROUP CLAIMED responsibility on Thursday for suspected suicide bombings on luxury hotels in US ally Jordan that killed 57 people and wounded 110.

In Wednesday night's synchronized attacks, two bombs exploded while crowds were celebrating weddings, leaving blood and destruction at Amman's luxury Grand Hyatt hotel and the nearby Radisson SAS. A third blast targeted a Days Inn hotel.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said in a statement on an Islamist website that "a group of our best lions" had launched the attacks in Jordan.

"Some hotels were chosen which the Jordanian despot had turned into a backyard for the enemies of the faith, the Jews and crusaders," said the message signed by the group's spokesperson. Its authenticity could not be verified.

Police said they thought the blasts were the work of suicide bombers. Simultaneous attacks are an al-Qaida hallmark and US officials said they suspected the network was to blame.

Jordan's King Abdullah blamed a "deviant and misled group" for the blasts. "The attacks targeted and killed innocent Jordanian civilians," the king, whose country is bordered by Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel, said in a statement.

Al-Qaida in Iraq's statement said: "Let the tyrant of Amman know that his protection ... for the Jews has become a target for the mujahideen and their attacks, and let him expect the worst."

Jordan is one of two Arab countries that have signed peace treaties with Israel. It helped the United States in the war on Iraq, where Zarqawi's group is part of an anti-US insurgency.

Jordan had so far been spared major attacks on foreigners despite its proximity to Iraq and popularity as a tourist destination, but the authorities had been braced for trouble.

ASHRAF Mohamed al-Akhras and his bride Nadia al-Alami pose during their wedding party at Radisson SAS hotel before an explosion ripped through their wedding reception in the heart of Amman Nov. 9. The bride and the groom were wounded and both lost their fathers to the deadly blast. AFP

"The initial investigations so far show that the blasts that caused the deaths of 57 people and wounded 110 people had been executed by explosive devices and suicide bombings," said a statement issued by the Jordanian Cabinet.

Interior Minister Awni Yarfas told Reuters the bombs at the hotels, all run by US chains, were timed to detonate almost simultaneously.

أبو مصعب الزرقاوي
قـــائد ارهابي

AL-ZARQAWI, Iraq's most-wanted man in US poster AFP

Jordan closed its borders to try to stop suspects fleeing and a security official said scores of people had been arrested.

Deputy Prime Minister Marwan al-Muasher said most of the victims were Jordanians, but China said three Chinese were among those killed. A Palestinian diplomat said a senior Palestinian officer and two other officials were among the dead. *Reuters*

China reports 2 new outbreaks of bird flu

BEIJING—CHINA HAS DISCOVERED two new outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in poultry in the northeast, bringing the total number of outbreaks to six since the beginning of last month, Chinese media said on Thursday.

Premier Wen Jiabao warned this week that the country was facing a "very serious situation" as the disease had not been brought under control and was likely to spread.

"It certainly is a significant outbreak," said World Health Organization (WHO) spokesperson Roy Wadia in Beijing. "It seems that they are extremely concerned about it." Xinhua news agency said the new outbreaks occurred in villages near the cities of Fuxin and Jinzhou, both of which are close to Heishan in Liaoning province, where last week's outbreak was reported.

About 1,100 chickens died in the latest two outbreaks and the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory confirmed on Wednesday that the virus was H5N1, the official China Daily said.

The WHO has sent a joint letter with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization to Chinese authorities, seeking more details on the Liaoning cases.

"We have done everything in line with the requirements and standards of the central government," an official at the Liaoning Animal Supervision and Management Bureau told Reuters, declining to give details. *Reuters*

Key Asian militant dead, but terror threat remains

BATU, INDONESIA—INDONESIAN police on Thursday confirmed Malaysian militant Azahari Husin had been killed during a gun battle with police, saying he tried to blow himself up but failed to detonate a bomb in time.

National police chief General Sutanto said fingerprint tests proved Azahari was one of two militants killed in the town of Batu in East Java province on Wednesday. Azahari was either shot dead or killed when his fellow militant exploded a bomb.

Indonesia, Australia and security experts welcomed the death of one of Southeast Asia's most wanted Islamic militants, who was blamed for a string of attacks, but some cautioned it would not eliminate the threat of radical violence in the region.

"The identification of the suspect at the crime scene according to the fingerprint data was identical to Azahari," Sutanto told reporters in Batu.

"The condition of Azahari's corpse is that it was severed around the legs and torso. He was not able to reach the button (of a bomb) because officers shot him first, but the other one was able to commit a suicide bombing."

That made it hard to determine what actually killed Azahari, said Sutanto, adding police found 30 bombs inside the house where he had holed up.

Dubbed the "demolition man" by newspapers in his native Malaysia, Azahari was the suspected brains behind several bomb attacks on Western targets in Indonesia and the top bomb maker in Jemaah Islamiyah, a shadowy network linked to al-Qaida.

Authorities say the electronics expert designed and supervised the making of the car bomb which caused the most damage in 2002 attacks on the resort island of Bali which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

Ansyaad Mbai, who heads Indonesia's antiterrorist coordinating board, said the group led by Azahari "is very significant" and Wednesday's actions "had reduced their capability."

"But when we talk holistically about terrorism, this is not the end. A movement with ideological and political motives won't die, even if the leading figure dies," he told Reuters. *Reuters*

US, Europe to offer new nuclear proposal to Iran

WASHINGTON—WASHINGTON, LONDON, Paris and Berlin will make a new offer to Iran to avoid a confrontation over its suspected nuclear weapons program, The New York Times said Thursday quoting US and European officials.

The proposal would let Iran conduct very limited nuclear activities on its territory, but would have it move all uranium enrichment processes to Russia, the officials said.

The offer was discussed at a meeting here Tuesday between US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, who has agreed to present it to the Iranians, they added.

Rice, according to the officials, urged that Iran be given a two-week deadline for its response, which should come before the IAEA board meets on Nov. 24.

Iran has resisted international pressure to give up its uranium enrichment program, insisting it is intended for peaceful purposes only and not for making nuclear weapons, which the United States suspects the Islamic nation is seeking to develop.

On Sept. 24, the IAEA passed a British-French-German resolution stating, for the first time since the IAEA began investigating Iran in February 2003, that Tehran was in "non-compliance" with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), mainly for hiding sensitive atomic activities for almost two decades.

A finding of non-compliance is an automatic trigger for taking the matter to the Security Council, which can impose sanctions, but could be difficult to implement because it lacks support from Russia and China, who have veto power on the Council. *AFP*

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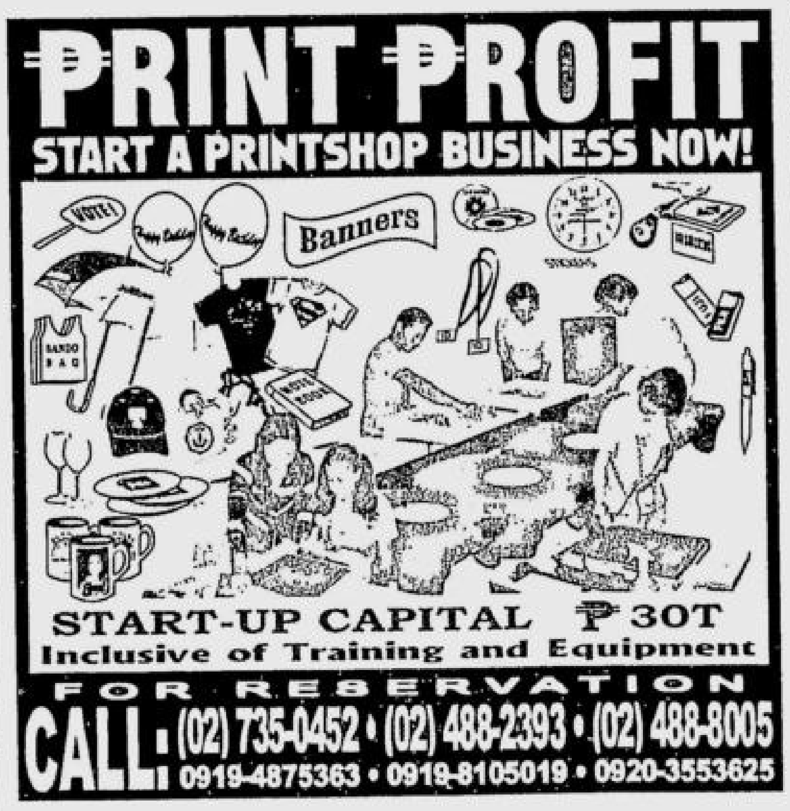
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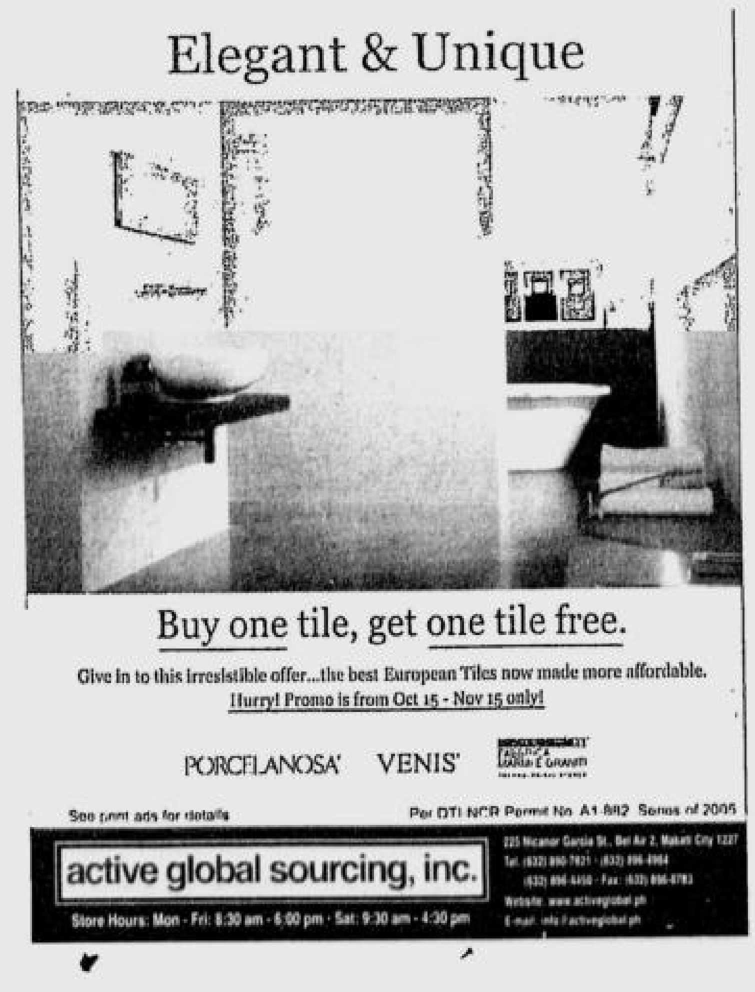
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2 suicide bombers kill 33 in Baghdad restaurant

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—TWO SUICIDE BOMBERS detonated themselves near a restaurant frequented by Baghdad police, killing at least 33 people and seriously injuring 19, police said.

The bombers struck at about 9:45 a.m., when officers usually stop by the restaurant for breakfast. Police Maj. Abdel-Hussein Minsef said three police officers and six civilians were killed in the blast and 24 others injured, among them 20 civilians.

The blasts came just before British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was expected in the country for a meeting with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the prime minister's office said.

Samiya Mohammed, a housewife who lives nearby, said she rushed outside when she heard the explosion.

"I went out to see the restaurant heavily damaged. There was bodies, mostly civilians, and blood everywhere inside the place. This is a criminal act that only targeted and hurt innocent people having their breakfast," she said.

There were no Americans in the area, she said.

"I do not understand why most of the time it is the Iraqis who are killed," she added.

The violence comes after the defense team in Saddam Hussein's trial said it will not show up for the next session Nov. 28 unless the court accepts its demands for "neutral international intervention" to guarantee security.

Their declaration Wednesday followed the assassination a day earlier of a second defense lawyer in the trial, already threatened by the insurgency and questions about legal standards. Adel al-Zubeidi, lawyer for former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, was killed by gunmen in Baghdad and another attorney was wounded.

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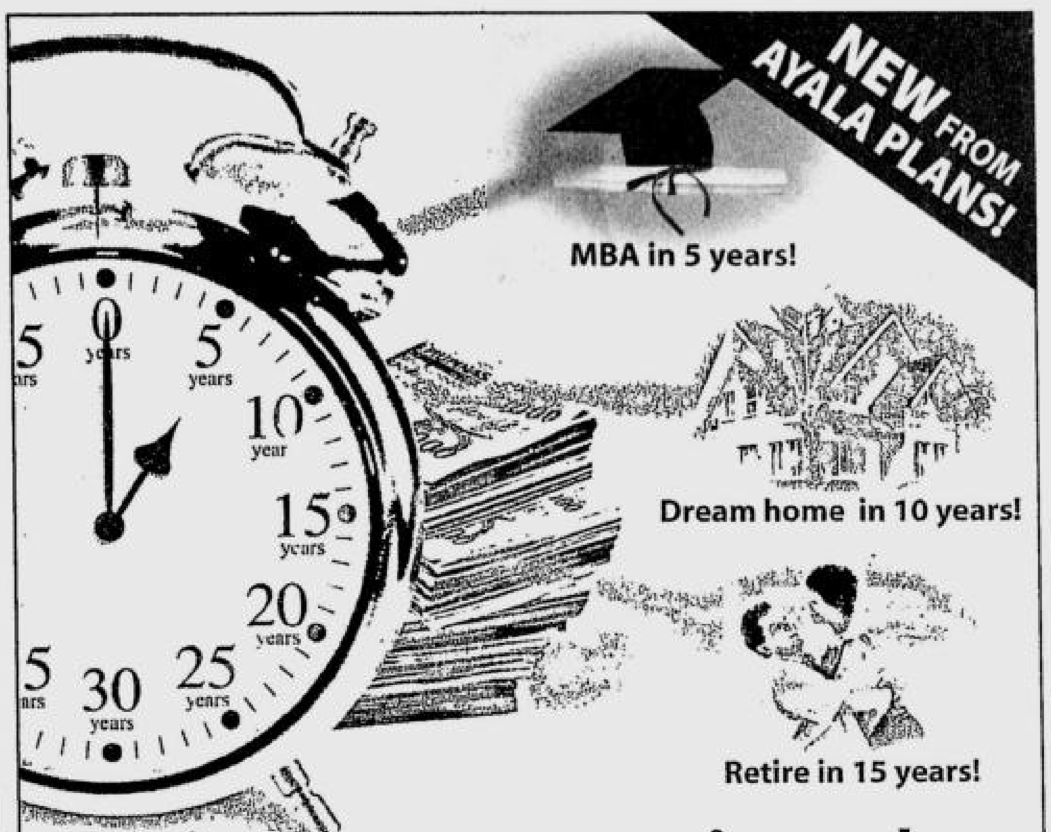
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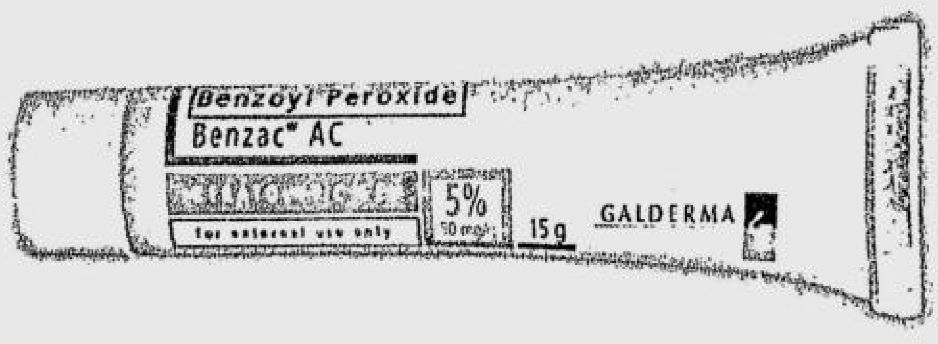
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Blair defeated on terror bill

LONDON—BRITISH PRIME MINister Tony Blair suffered his first major parliamentary defeat in more than eight years in power on Wednesday over new antiterrorism powers, raising fresh questions about his future.

BLAIR making an impassioned plea in parliament REUTERS

The elected House of Commons voted by 322 to 291 against plans to let police hold terrorist suspects for up to 90 days without charge, as nearly 50 members of Blair's Labour Party refused to support him.

Police called for the new powers after Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people in London on July 7. Critics say the powers would have been a huge infringement of civil liberties.

Parliamentarians later voted for a 28-day detention limit, up from 14 now.

Blair vowed not to be deflected by his first reverse in parliament since taking office in 1997 despite calls from the main opposition Conservatives for him to consider quitting.

"It's better some times to lose doing the right thing than to win doing the wrong thing," Blair told BBC television.

Blair, who won a third term in national elections last May, had recalled his two top ministers—Finance Minister Gordon Brown and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw—from trips abroad in an effort to win the vote.

He had also put his personal authority on the line, telling parliamentarians it was their "duty" to support the measure.

Not enough of his supporters listened.

"Mr. Blair's authority has been diminished almost to vanishing point," said Conservative leader Michael Howard. "He is no longer able to carry his own party with him. He must now consider his position."

Bookmakers William Hill shortened the odds on Blair leaving office before the end of 2006, despite his determination to serve a full third term in power and party rules that make a leadership challenge very tough to mount.

Financial markets reacted swiftly to the defeat, the pound dropping nearly a 1/2 cent against the dollar after the vote. *Reuters*

French rioting appears to abate after curfews

PARIS—VIOLENCE ACROSS France appeared to abate Thursday in the first 24 hours of emergency measures aimed at stopping the country's worst civil unrest in decades. Some cities, including the Riviera resorts of Cannes and Nice, imposed curfews on minors.

The government toughened its stance Wednesday against rioters, with Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy saying local authorities have been told to deport foreigners convicted for involvement.

The violence started Oct. 27 among youths in the northeastern Paris suburb of Seine-Saint-Denis angry over the accidental deaths of two teenagers, but grew into a nationwide insurrection of arson and clashes with police.

Arson attacks continued overnight Wednesday-Thursday in some places as the violence stretched into a 14th night. However, the number of attacks continued to fall. By around 3:30 a.m., 340 cars had been set on fire across the country—compared with a total of 600 for the night before—and 155 people were detained for questioning, police said.

Vandals set 11 cars ablaze and rammed a burning car into a primary school in the southern city of Toulouse, damaging its entrance, the national police said. Another school was set on fire in the eastern city of Belfort.

Vandalism at two power stations caused blackouts in parts of Lyon, France's second largest city, police said. Car burnings continued for a fifth night across Belgium, with 15 vehicles torched, but the government stressed that attacks were isolated and could not be compared to widespread rioting across the border in France. *AP*

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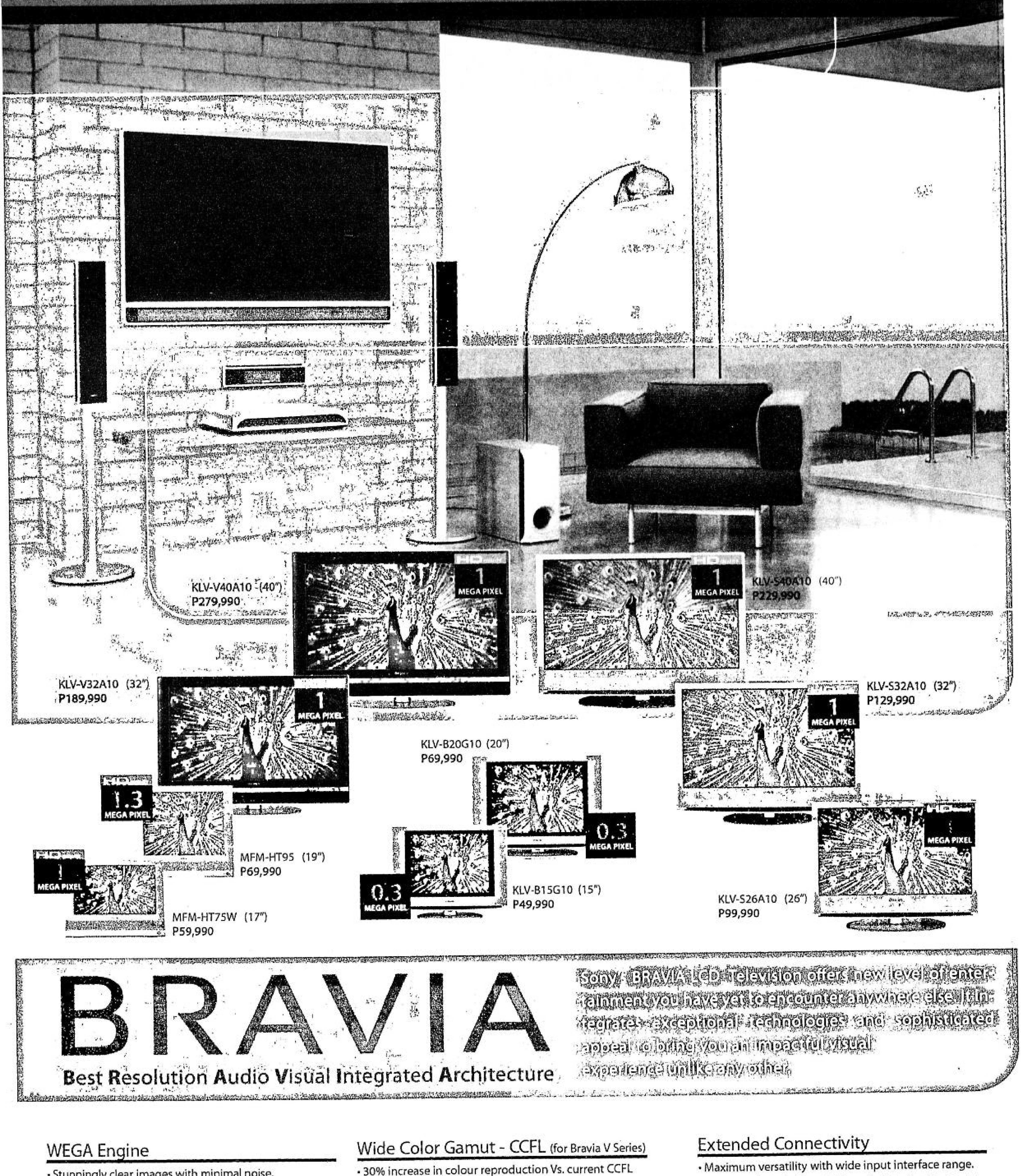

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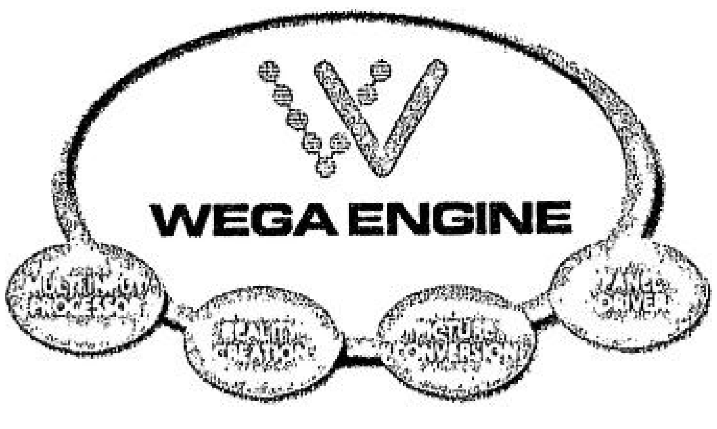

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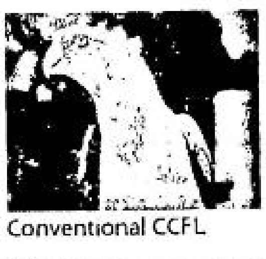
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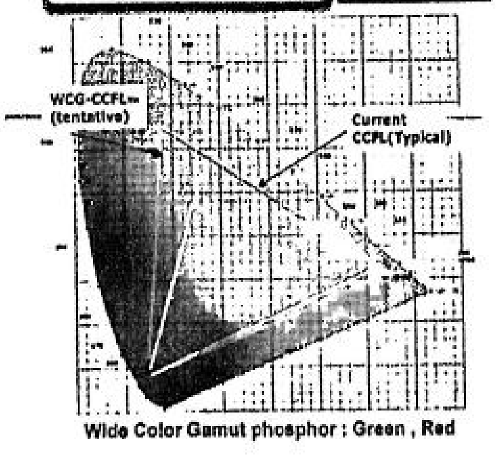

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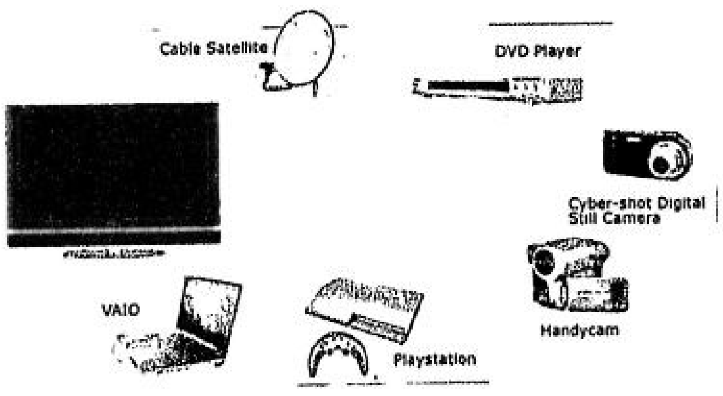

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OPINION

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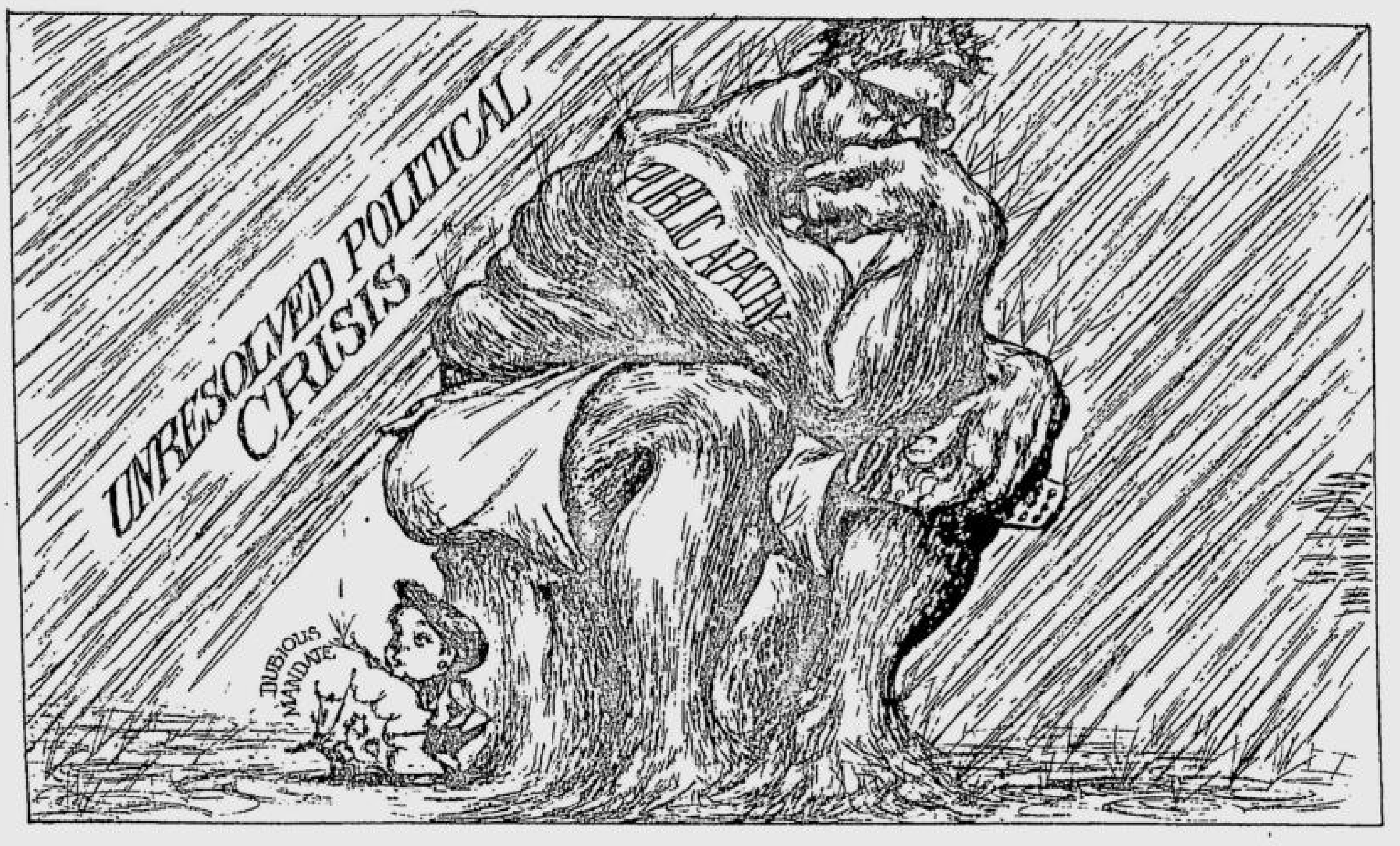

Foul play

EDITORIAL

WHERE DOES THE LOYALTY OF ZOSIMO PAREDES lie? This undersecretary of foreign affairs, who is also executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, seems more interested in lawyering for the Americans than defending the Republic of the Philippines and its citizens who pay his salary. It is not his job to come up with the ifs, ands, or buts that would give the Americans leeway to bring out of the Philippines their servicemen who stand accused of rape. His job is to apply the most stringently pro-Filipino interpretation of that agreement to bear on the issues at hand. If he does not want to do this, he should be replaced; if he wants to do this, but is being prevented by his higher-ups from doing so, he should resign.

A "senior official" of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has said US officials have intimated, by way of "unofficial requests," that they'd prefer their soldiers transferred to Okinawa. Asked for his response, Paredes gave the broadest, kindest, most generous interpretation of the Visiting Forces Agreement possible, as far as the convenience of the accused is concerned. The agreement, Paredes says, does not stipulate where accused servicemen should be detained; it only ensures that they are held in US custody, and that they be produced whenever hearings are held. Furthermore, Paredes says, the Philippines cannot compel the Americans to keep accused US servicemen in the country.

We wonder if Paredes speaks with the full approval and authority of the Philippine government. Furthermore, Paredes should explain if his own personal views coincide with the statements he's made. The country deserves to know if its government is so obsessed with pandering to the United States, that it is prepared to junk justice, or whether we simply have the latest example of a long line of Philippine officials more interested in serving US interests instead of standing up for the rights of fellow Filipinos. A tragedy is perilously close to turning into a farce, and the public ought to know who is poised to make a mockery of the investigation of the rape in Subic.

If the VFA is silent as to whether American servicemen accused of crimes should be kept within the territorial boundaries of the Philippines, now is the time for the government to assert that logic dictates that the accused be kept in the Philippines pending the conclusion of the investigation and for the duration of the trial. The VFA already grants a tremendous concession to American interests by granting custody of any accused to US officials; the Philippines, for its part, has the implacable duty to vigorously prosecute any crime that foreign servicemen may have committed against Filipinos on Philippine soil.

The crime of rape is equally reprehensible before the eyes of Philippine and American law. Abuses committed by American servicemen abroad, whether in allied countries or not, are a cause for shame among Americans and a cause for justifiable outrage on the part of the citizens of the countries in which the abuses take place, not least because such crimes are a violation of the hospitality accorded US servicemen and a breach of the good relations that should exist not only between allied governments but also their peoples.

Sen. Richard Gordon, a good friend of the Americans, has tried to be conciliatory by saying, "This incident does not speak for the VFA, for the American people. It's just them [the accused rapist and companions]. Let's just prosecute them to the hilt." Gordon went further and hired Manuel Quijano to serve as lawyer for the victim.

The senator, thus far, has acted correctly. Let the accused be prosecuted to the hilt; they will certainly be accorded the best defense possible. It is not the job, however, of Philippine authorities, to make the experience pleasant or convenient for Americans, and a mockery of justice for Filipinos.

This is an important case. The VFA was peddled by Presidents Ramos and Estrada as a means of building a new, more equitable, relationship between the United States and the Philippines. We do not see anything equitable about such obvious subservience on the part of Filipino officials who grant Americans extreme latitude in interpreting the VFA or, worse, Filipinos like that unnamed doctor in Subic who offended the victim by suggesting she "had it coming." Between Paredes, that doctor and the driver of the van, the worst enemy of the Filipino remains his fellow Filipino.

What is news?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IN THE WAKE OF THE LATEST BOO-BOOS OF the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police—both of which got the wrong man—President Macapagal-Arroyo vented her anger not on the law enforcers but on the media.

Why the media? What have the media got to do with it?

Apparently, Ate Glue was embarrassed by the twin boo-boos, coming so close to each other, that she has to look for a scapegoat. The original sinners are, of course, the intelligence arms of the AFP and the PNP, and Ate Glue got involved in it because of her penchant for claiming credit for the arrest of every penny-ante criminal. When the arrest turned out to be a dud, she got mud on her face. Pride, after all, was, is, and always will be Ate Glue's biggest sin.

She cannot blame the AFP and the PNP even if they deserve the blame for the sloppy job since they hold the guns and drive the tanks and if she irks them, they may just march to Malacañang and make her vamoose. Ate Glue may have many faults, but she has enough sense to know that she is standing on shaky ground as it is without irritating the AFP and the PNP.

So she has to turn the blame on the media, the "gossips that report and magnify every small error and ignore the good things that she has done." She seems to think that without the media reporting the corruption, cheating and abuses in government, the Philippines would be in much better shape. Such self-censorship won't put food on the table, provide jobs for the people, or put roofs over their heads but at least they won't know the sorry state they are in. And if media, instead of airing these negative stories, published only her achievements, no matter how little, the people would think they are in Paradise, that they are so lucky to have Ate Glue as President.

In other words, what she wants is a return to the Marcos martial law era when the newspapers were sanitized and no unflattering stories (except bits and pieces smuggled in guerrilla-style) came out and only (in the words of Imelda Marcos) "the good and the beautiful," real or imaginary, were published. But look at what happened to us. We were lulled into complacency and when we woke up, kleptocracy had spread like a cancer and it had to take a radical surgery through People Power to remove the malignancy in Malacañang.

A succession of Malacañang officials have complained about what they perceive as the "negativism" of the press. Their usual lament is: "Why do they accentuate the negative and downplay the positive? Wouldn't it be better if they turned things around and played up the positive stories and ignored the negative ones?" In other words, the government wants the press to sweep the trash under the rug or to turn off the lights so the people won't see the scattered trash.

Well, things may indeed look spic-and-span initially, but the trash will stay there hidden and, in time, it will rot and putrefy and smell and attract flies and other vermin. We cannot escape the stench even with the trash under the rug and with the lights out.

Unfortunately, this is not the way Ate Glue and other officials see it. They blame the press for reporting graft, corruption and abuses. If the press doesn't report it, the people won't know about it—that is their logic.

Let me educate these officials, as simply as possible, about the basic principles of journalism. Let's call it Journalism 101.

Newspapers exist to report news. They were born out of a need by the people to know what is going on in their government and society. And what is news? It is defined as "anything unusual." The classic example is that if a dog bites a man, it is not news; but if a man bites a dog, then that is news. Cases of dogs biting humans are common, so it is not interesting to readers, but humans biting dogs are indeed rare and readers would be eager to know why he did it and how the dog reacted.

So why does the press play down or ignore something good that a public official does and play up anything bad that he does?

Of course. Because public officials are expected to do good—that's their job; that's nothing unusual. But when they do something bad, that's unusual and they're not supposed to do that. So that is news.

When the time comes when the situation is reversed, when doing good is so rare it becomes news and doing bad so common that it is no longer news, then we would be in a very sorry state indeed. We are already slowly going into that. Stories of honest cab drivers and janitors returning money they found now make the front pages. Is that an indication that honesty has now become so rare that it is now front-page news?

Di ba we are all expected to be honest at all times, from the President (and especially the President) down to the janitor? That is why when a president cheats in an election, it is big news. That is why when a president lies, it is big news. That is why when a president steals, it is big news. That is why when presidential relatives accept bribes from gambling lords, it is big news. They are not supposed to do those things.

As for those stories Ate Glue complained about, they were not invented by the press. These are facts—they actually happened. All the press did was report them, which its duty. It was just the messenger. But Ate Glue wants to shoot the messenger for bringing the message.

Ate Glue has nobody to blame but herself for all the bad press she is getting. There is one surefire way to always get a good press: Always do good, and don't do anything bad.

On suppressing the truth commission

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE PAPERS REPORT THAT PALACE OFFICIALS are looking at whether the organizers of the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) may be charged criminally with "inciting to sedition." I certainly hope they abandon that folly.

Internationally, truth commissions are nothing new, and have a noble history of helping wounded nations heal themselves. There are differences, for sure, in the way various truth commissions have been formed (whether by the government or by civil society), in their goals and aims (whether they aim to prosecute the offenders, or solely to record the truth—"amnesty without amnesia"); or whether they are conducted by the political and military victors to consolidate their triumph, or by the victim communities to vindicate their pain. They all share, however, a faith in the power of truth itself to salve societal lesions, and a disdain for those who fear the light that truth shines to banish our doubts.

By way of example, Argentina's National Commission on the Disappeared was created in 1983 by President Raul Alfonsin. Consisting of writers, religious leaders, journalists and some legislators, their famous report "Nunca Mas" documented 9,000 cases of forced disappearances (or "salvaging," in the macabre lingo of Philippine human rights). South Africa's Commission of Truth and Reconciliation was set up in 1995 by parliament to inquire into human rights abuses during the apartheid era. Chaired by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission submitted its report in 1998 to President Nelson Mandela.

Many other countries have created their own truth commissions: Bolivia, Chad, Chile, Ecuador, Ghana, Haiti, Nepal, Nigeria, Honduras, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Uruguay.

Non-believers in the CCTA will no doubt say that the truth commissions above were all created by governments, and not by civil society. But that is bootstrapping the argument. Neither our President nor Congress seems eager to know the truth, and indeed that is why the CCTA was formed—as a desperate measure to know what the President wouldn't tell and answer the questions that Congress wouldn't ask.

In point of fact, there have been truth commissions which were not created by governments. Some were fostered by the United Nations. In East Timor, the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor created the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. In Burundi, the UN called for an inquiry into the violence that caused 50,000 civilian deaths.

Others were created as part of peace agreements. The Commission on the Truth for El Salvador issued its report "From Madness to Hope" as part of a UN-brokered peace accord. Guatemala's Historical Clarification Commission, chaired by the famed German international law professor Christian Tomuschat, issued "Memory of Silence" as part of the settlement between the Guatemalan government and the National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unit.

Others were formed by civil society. In Bolivia, religious groups, labor unions, a local university and human rights advocates formed a committee to investigate the abuses of power by President Garcia Meza, a general who came to power via the "Cocaine Coup," backed by the Nazi, Klaus Barbie. He was later tried and sentenced. In Brazil, the archbishop of Sao Paulo, with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC), organized a team to examine human rights abuses using testimonies of political prisoners. In Paraguay, the Comite de Iglesias para Ayuda de Emergencia, also with WCC support, documented human rights violations under dictator Alfredo Stroessner. Finally, in Rwanda, NGOs created an investigative commission on the genocide when international state agencies were too timid to act.

As you can see, the composition of the CCTA is comparable to those in other countries. (Indeed, various Peruvian commissions have included the writer Mario Vargas Llosa, a sociologist, and a philosopher. Can you beat that?)

If at all, what is unique with the CCTA is the timing. With a few exceptions, truth commissions are typically part of "post-conflict" or "transitional" justice. Yet fixing when the conflict begins and ends is difficult in the Philippines today, because what we have is a seamless continuum of conflict dragged on by political inertia.

Forgive me if I sound so academic, because this piece actually relates to my lecture today in Italy on the dilemmas of international criminal justice. Truth commissions are more than just about catharsis and therapy. They are actually an attempt "to reclaim the moral high ground by telling what actually took place" and by establishing a moral account of the historical record.

The true dilemma of the citizens behind the CCTA, therefore, is that they must limit themselves to the role of "truth-tellers in the flat sense of doing their best to record who did what to whom and when, period. Were they to engage in social analysis, by identifying structural phenomena [and] proposing deep changes [in society], they risk being viewed as but another voice in a world of disputed opinions and theories ….. Their reports might lose distinctiveness and a sense of objectivity by being absorbed into the broad play of political ideas and historical debate."

A Harvard study recalled a famous quote: "The cause of the Irish problem is that the Irish never forget, while the English never remember." Well, Filipinos do them one better: we never even find out. With the help of the CCTA, it's time we did.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

How to make Doha succeed

COMMENTARY

Paul Wolfowitz

THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT ROUND OF TRADE talks will be judged by one simple test: does it enable people in poor countries to sell more of their goods overseas, creating more jobs and lifting their incomes?

If the answer is yes, the round will succeed in enabling tens of millions of people to lift themselves out of abject poverty over the next decade and give them and their children a chance to lead a better life. In some cases, it will be the difference between a healthy life or an early death from a preventable disease.

If the answer is no, and the talks end without giving developing countries—especially the very poor, particularly in Africa—more opportunity and help to export, then the talks will have failed.

We are approaching a decisive phase in the negotiations, with the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Hong Kong just weeks away. The outcome hangs in the balance. So, too, does the future of global poverty reduction, despite recent successes in cutting poor countries' debt burdens and commitments to provide substantially more aid. Strong leadership and cooperation is needed to ensure the December meeting becomes a new milestone in the fight against poverty, a moment when concern for the poorest people outweighs parochial issues.

It is trade, not aid, that holds the key to creating jobs and raising incomes. It is trade that will allow poor countries to generate growth; forgiving debt alone will not do that. It is trade that has helped 400 million Chinese escape poverty in the past 20 years and the same can happen elsewhere. In Brazil, for example, the 20 percent of the population that lives on less than $2 a day is looking to more open agricultural markets in developed countries as a means to lift themselves out of poverty.

But success will not happen if the rich countries see opening their markets only in terms of pleasing their domestic interest groups. And it will not happen if developing countries do not reform themselves. Africans and the poor of Asia, Latin America and elsewhere may not vote in rich countries but their poverty has a direct impact in other, equally powerful, ways. Increasingly, we see that people in poor countries flee the hazards of insecurity and travel in search of work. This is logical human behavior. Of course the best opportunities for safety, stability and work are in rich countries. The estimated 30,000 Africans waiting in Morocco and Algeria for a chance to enter Spain are just the latest, but certainly not the last, people to want a better life in a safer country. The best solution is to help poor countries create hope and opportunity for their people.

Opening markets creates new opportunities: not just for India and China to sell to the United States, the European Union and Japan, but for Rwanda to sell to India and China. But some of the poorest countries need help to take advantage of trade opportunities, they need greater assistance in building roads and ports to connect their goods to markets. Increased support for trade is an essential complement to the Doha round and the World Bank is working with others to deliver it.

Above all, there is a moral argument. How can we justify spending $280 billion on support to agricultural producers in developed countries—nearly the total gross domestic product of Africa and four times the total amount of overseas aid? How can we justify imposing barriers on the poorest 2 billion people that are twice as high as on everyone else? How can we accept a system in which Africa's share of world exports has fallen from 3.5 percent to less than 2 percent in the past 30 years? A central part of the Doha development round is the need to reduce protection on agriculture. Unless serious concessions are made by all sides—developing countries as well as developed countries, Europe, the United States, Japan, everyone—the Doha round of trade talks will fail and the people who will suffer the most are the world's poor.

Everyone has work to do. The United States needs to do more to cut its subsidies substantially. The EU needs to do more on market access to provide significant new trade opportunities for developing countries. In turn, developing countries need to open their markets in services and manufacturing, and lower their own agricultural protection.

We must also consider not only what is being offered but what is being kept off the table. Only five products account for almost half the $280 billion in annual support to agricultural producers, so even a small number of exceptions to free trade could have a big impact.

Often, a single product commands billions of dollars in support—milk producers alone receive $39 billion in support, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while the rice industry receives $27 billion a year. But poor countries often depend on a single product, one that might represent just a tiny fraction of a rich country's overall trade. Cotton subsidies in rich countries may be less than $5 billion per year but their impact is enormous on individual African producers.

These are difficult issues and it may be uncomfortable for political leaders in the industrialized nations to step forward and give up subsidies and other barriers to free trade. But that temporary discomfort is nothing compared with the daily discomfort and deprivation faced by the world's poorest people. They are counting on us; we must deliver results for them.

The Doha development round must succeed and success means that developing countries have greater access to global markets. The lives and futures of millions of poor people depend on it.

Paul Wolfowitz is president of the World Bank.

A nightmare relived

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE SAME DAY THAT THIS PAPER HEADlined a report from an unnamed Subic official that the six American Marines accused of rape had requested to be transferred to Okinawa, there was a story in the inside pages about a US Embassy official criticizing the Philippine government as "not doing enough" to curb human trafficking.

US Embassy deputy chief of mission Scott Bellard was quoted as saying that with no one so far prosecuted for the crime of human trafficking in this country the US State Department had decided to keep the Philippines in Tier 2 of its watch list.

The US government, specifically the Bush administration, has chosen to take a high-profile role in the global campaign against trafficking in persons, alienating many governments by classifying countries according to their action or inaction against traffickers. "We need to see more progress in prosecution and convictions this year to avoid a downgrade to Tier 3 next year," Bellard threatened.

Unfortunately, the attitude of Bush officials on the issue seems limited to viewing human trafficking as merely a criminal matter, and that the way to put an end to this cross-border crime is to rescue the women and children who fall victim to traffickers, arrest the traffickers, prosecute them and lock them behind bars.

Make no mistake, I feel the same way, too. I think those who trade in persons, mainly for purposes of prostitution, deserve to rot in jail, if not be transported prematurely to meet their Maker. But illegal sex trafficking is more than just a problem for police and immigration officials. It finds its roots in the status of women in both the "sending" and "receiving" countries, the commodification of women's bodies and exploitation of their sexuality. And that's why I have a problem with the incredible insensitivity displayed by a US Embassy official in lecturing Filipinos about our lack of resolve on trafficking, while the embassy itself is providing aid and shelter to six of its military personnel accused of gang-raping a Filipina.

* * *

HUMAN trafficking is defined as the illegal transport of people within a country or across borders for purposes of prostitution or labor under slavery-like conditions.

But women can be trafficked and traded even without leaving their hometowns, especially if their hometowns play host to visiting foreign troops, rapacious tourists or randy locals. One of the most offensive aspects of the presence of US military bases in our territory, before the Philippine Senate rejected the treaty that would have allowed their continued stay, was the way prostitution was institutionalized in Angeles and Olongapo, site of the two biggest bases. I remember well a documentary on the US bases narrated by the late Sen. Jose Diokno who, while strolling around the strip of clubs and brothels in Olongapo, asked plaintively: "Is this the way to treat a friend?"

The sex workers in Angeles and Olongapo may not have been trafficked out of the country, but the sailors, soldiers and Marines could well have been trafficked into the Philippines, let loose on our streets for a little R&R, siring children they inevitably left behind, and putting our nation to shame.

This was the nightmare scenario that opponents of the Visiting Forces Agreement brought up while the VFA was being debated. And with this sensational Subic rape case, the nightmare has been brought back in vivid color. It's fairly obvious that the US military doesn't seem to consider the safety and human rights of women a priority when contrasted with the "relaxation" needs of their troops overseas. And they dare lecture us for not doing enough against traffickers? How about making an example of the Marines?

The Bush administration could show its resolve to end all forms of sexual exploitation, not just cross-border trafficking, by telling the US Embassy to release the Marines to the custody of Philippine authorities. Sure, their ass is covered by the VFA, but what's to stop them from doing the right and moral thing?

* * *

ADDING to the chorus of voices raised in anger, despair, sympathy and concern over the Subic rape case is the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), the national machinery for the advancement of women. Here is the statement in full:

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) strongly condemns the rape of a 22-year-old woman in the Subic, Olongapo City last Nov. 1, allegedly by six American servicemen who took part in a recent joint military exercise under the Visiting Forces Agreement between the United States and the Philippines. We, at NCRFW stand pat in our belief that no woman of whatever background or under any circumstance, deserves to be raped nor violated in any way. We commiserate with the victim's experience and we express our concern and sympathy for her and her family.

We appeal to all concerned partner agencies to extend support and services to the victim. We also urge the Department of Justice to fully enforce the Anti-Rape Law of 1997 and ensure a speedy investigation and prosecution of the case. The NCRFW remains committed to see that justice is served. As the secretariat of the 15-member Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee (VAWCC), we will continue to help ensure that government strengthens its efforts to eliminate gender-based violence.

In the light of recent developments, we, together with concerned sectors, strongly urge government not to grant the alleged request of the accused to be transferred to their Okinawa home base. Such move will certainly weaken the assertion of our sovereignty as well as make prosecution of the case difficult.

Memories of Lemery

HIGH BLOOD

Corazon P. Padilla

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

SUMMER VACATIONS SPENT IN OUR HOMEtown, Lemery, Batangas, when I was a little girl are a still a joy to remember. The thrill of the two months every year was always worth the 10 months of waiting.

I remember the Flores de Mayo, a month-long nightly *alayan* in different *tukiongs* (makeshift altars) of the town and in nearby barrios. My sister and I were invited every night to take part in this beautiful rite of flower offering to Mama Mary.

I remember how my mother took us children for walks through the small tree-lined streets, calling on almost every house along the way. The town was full of cousins and aunts and we just had to stop, talk a little and partake of something before we were allowed to go on our way.

I remember the people saying that Lemery was a town of beautiful women probably because the first-ever Miss Philippines, Anita Noble, came from there.

But why were there so many unmarried elderly ladies? My father said this was because the young men had such adventurous spirits they left their town for other places and eventually got married there. Either this or the fact that the ladies got so engrossed in their work (many of them were teachers) they forgot the time.

And yet, father added, in this town were very good prospects for wives and mothers for they were brought up in the highest Filipino traditions: love for the home, family solidarity, industry and strict standards of morality and religion.

There were parties often, but since we were too young to dance, my sister and I just watched the older girls and boys do the tango, the waltz, or the conga. Sometimes we were asked to play the piano for intermission. The guests were rather thrilled to hear and see the two little girls from Manila, daughters of their old teachers, doing the *cuatro manos* on the piano.

We children and some cousins went bathing (we didn't call it swimming then) almost every day in the sea, which was so cool, clean and inviting. To appease our hunger while on the shore, we ate *duhat* or *sineguelas*, little minding the stomachache we would probably have later.

We have been returning to the dear hometown this recent years but with progress and the population explosion, there are now many people we don't recognize. In recent years also, many buildings have risen, the market has grown bigger, banks and hospitals have been put up, private beach resorts have taken over the sea, and Lemery has changed in a large way.

We ourselves have probably become softer, for instead of just walking the distance to Taal Church as we did when we were younger, we now have to ride. Taal is just across the bridge from Lemery, and the church, said to be the biggest in Asia, we can already see from the bridge. Cousins, too, abound in Taal for Lemery used to be part of it.

Mother said Lemery became a municipality only in 1862 and named after Lt. Gen. Lemery, then the captain general of the Philippines. For economic reasons, though, it was again annexed to Taal in 1904, until 1907 when the Philippine Civil Commission promulgated Law 1549 recognizing Lemery as an independent municipality again.

Father told us that Lemery sank by more than one meter when Taal Volcano erupted in 1911 burying several barrios and killing hundreds of people. Lemery was a veritable ghost town for weeks since the people had sought refuge in far places.

The townspeople also still painfully remember the misery of the Japanese occupation. Town officials like the mayor and police chief, as well as other citizens, were killed by assassins. The main crisis was reached on April 10, 1944 when half of the houses in Lemery were burned.

With liberation came peace, and as the residents were truly religious, hope was renewed and efforts were exerted on making the town as prosperous as before.

Aug. 16 every year is a big day for us, from our early years up to the present. This town fiesta day features the novena, the procession, the *luwa* or declamation of prayers to Mama Mary and patron Saint San Roque, the "*balikbayan*" of Lemereños.

We never fail to attend the town fiesta and with old friends and relatives we talk of the "good, old times." The recollections evoke feelings that are a mixture of happiness, sadness, fulfillment and longing. The friends and relatives have dwindled to just a handful now, but the nostalgia for the old hometown and the pleasure of seeing again the loved faces are as keen as ever, reminding me of some lines memorized in my childhood:

An old lane, an old gate,
an old house by a tree,
A wild woods, a wild brook—
they will not let me be;
In childhood I knew them,
and still they call to me
To walk with the morning
and watch its rose unfold,
To drowse with the noontide lulled
in its heart of gold,
To lie with the night-time
and dream the dreams of old.

Corazon P. Padilla is a retired dean of the College of Pharmacy of the Philippine Women's University.

Monosyllabic surnames

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS DOING RESEARCH FOR A LECTURE ABOUT KINSHIP systems in the Philippines when I chanced upon an entry in Wikipedia, that wonderful online people's encyclopedia, featuring the most popular surnames in different countries.

Before reading on, you might want to guess first which ones are on the list. I'm sure many of you are thinking of the ever so generic De la Cruz, and you're right—it's on the list but appears as No. 2 after, well, Cruz.

After Cruz, the other Pinoy blockbuster surnames are: De los Santos, De los Reyes, Garcia, Gonzales, Lim, Martinez, Mendoza, Mercado, Santos, Reyes and Tan. (Yes, if you were counting, the list is a bit strange, with a total of 13. But that's fine since my surname is the lucky 13th.)

The surnames tell us a bit of Philippine history, mainly about the Spanish colonial influence. Notice that 11 of the 13 surnames were assigned to us by the Spaniards. Not a single "indigenous" surname—for example, Batungbakal—is on the list.

Hokkien surnames

What's intriguing is that two Chinese surnames make it into the list—Lim and Tan, which, incidentally, are my maternal and paternal surnames. I'm not surprised since these are among the most common surnames in the province of Fujian, which produced the most migrants for the Philippines.

I've been asked why the surnames are so often monosyllables. That's because each Chinese word is, well, one syllable and surnames usually take one word. The surnames have meanings, Wang, for example, means a king, and Lim, a forest.

Written in Chinese characters, these family names are the same throughout the country since the entire country uses one written script. But because there are different Chinese languages, they may be pronounced differently, which is why when they're Romanized, they take on many variations. Thus in Putonghua or Mandarin, the national language, you will have a surname pronounced and transcribed as Chen, but this is Chan in Cantonese and Tan in Hokkien (or Minnan), the language spoken by most ethnic Chinese in the Philippines.

There aren't that many Chinese surnames, with about 200 accounting for 96 percent of the population, according to one study conducted in 1990. Wikipedia does have the most common surnames in China, listed in Putonghua. With some help from my father, I'm listing them together with their Fujian counterparts: Wang (Ong), Chen (Tan), Li (Lee or Dee), Zhang (Tiu), Liu (Lao), Yang (Yu), Huang (Uy, Ng), Wu (Go or Ngo), Lin (Lim) and Zhou (Chiu).

There are other Fujian surnames in the Philippines, so let me give some of them and, going in the reverse direction, give their Putonghua equivalents: Ang (Hong), Chua (Cai or Tsai), Tong (Tang), Yap (Ye), Koh (Xu or Hsu) and Ty or Tee (Zheng).

Hybridized surnames

Not all the Chinese Filipinos stuck to their original monosyllabic names. Some eventually adopted Spanish-sounding surnames. Some of the Roxases, for example, are actually Chuas. In Davao, I knew a family who was actually Tan but adopted the surname Lopez.

Other Chinese families contracted their patriarch's full name to derive a surname. Cojuangco is a well known example, with their origins going several generations back to someone whose name was probably pronounced Co Huang Ko. There are many other examples: Gokongwei, Yuchengco, Teehankee, Limchayseng.

Still another interesting story is that some innovative clan created new surnames around sibling rank, using the Hokkien words: Tuazon is said to mean "eldest grandson," followed by Dizon, Samson, Sison, Gozun and Lacson. I guess that clan practiced family planning since there were only six grandsons.

This hybridization of surnames by overseas Chinese again tells us a bit about history, this time about the way the migrants blended into their new environments. In Thailand, the Chinese integrated rapidly into their new home country, and took up surnames that "sounded" more Thai. Because Thai law required that each new surname be different from others, and that each one had at least 10 characters, the Chinese ended up contracting an ancestor's full name, while adding on Thai features or sounds, producing kilometric surnames like Niratpattanasai. In a situation that's the reverse of our own, "indigenous" Thai surnames were short—for example, Srisai—while the Chinese had the tongue-twisters.

In Indonesia, the Chinese were practically forced to take up Indonesian-sounding names because there was very strong anti-Chinese feelings, especially around 1965 when there was a bloody anti-communist purge that resulted in many Chinese being massacred. A monosyllabic name made you Chinese, and the Chinese were presumed to be communist.

The Philippines has been fairly tolerant about Chinese migrants, but anti-Chinese prejudice does exist, sometimes in ways that people may not even be aware of, such as when they play with the surnames (for example, *tan tan kawatan*), which can come through as offensive.

Note, too, that the Department of Foreign Affairs requires additional documentation for first-time passport applicants if they have "foreign-sounding surnames." Guess whose applications get to be scrutinized more?

Roots

The monosyllabic surnames are here to stay—just leaf through our phone directories and you'll see what I mean. Many Filipinos with these surnames are products of repeated intermarriages, so the "original" Chinese ancestor who migrated to the Philippines may date several generations back.

But if you're interested, you just might be able to trace back your roots. You have the best chance of finding your ancestors if you at least know where one of your Chinese grandparents is buried. If you do and the tombstone is in Chinese, it should have that ancestor's full Chinese name, as well as the village in China where he or she originally came from, the village referred to as the *lao jia* or ancestral home.

If you're able to go back to that *lao jia*, which is most likely to be in Fujian province, you should be able to find the ancestral books which you can use to reconstruct your family tree. Be prepared for the hordes of relatives welcoming you back.

We're probably going to see more of these monosyllabic surnames in the Philippines. There's now a new wave of Chinese migrants, many of whom are not from Fujian and therefore carry new monosyllabic surnames.

We also have a growing number of Koreans and they use monosyllabic surnames. I checked with several Internet sources and they were quite consistent with listing the top five: Kim (or Gim), Lee (or Yi and I), Park (or Pak and Bak), Choi (or Choe) and Jung (or Chung, Jeong). The Koreans keep good records of their clans based not just on the surname but the region of origin. They used strictly prohibit marriages among people with the same surname and regional origin. That was sometimes problematic, since Kim and Lee alone account for 36 percent of the population.

Glaring fact omitted

I HOLD WINNIE MONSOD IN HIGH ESTEEM. She's among the few personalities who rate high in my list of people with unquestionable integrity. Of course, I voted for her in the last national elections. I know she would have been a good senator had she won.

However, her stand on the issues against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is baffling me. (PDI, 10/29/05) Let me cite one issue—the one that started it all—the Hello Garci tape. She, along with the other GMA supporters and apologists, has been saying there is absolutely nothing wrong with that wiretapped conversation between GMA and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that merits her impeachment or removal from office. Duh?

I don't know what kind of analysis she has made out of the taped conversation. Anyway, however one (perhaps, even a grade school student), looks at it, he or she can't lose sight of the fact that something wrong was done. And the fact that no less than the President herself did it aggravated the act and made it a "serious" one, enough reason to boot her out of the presidency, a position that in fact may not even rightfully belong to her. In her defense of the President, she is overlooking a very glaring fact about the issue, and this is: the principal character himself—Garcillano—the one who should say that no fraud had been committed, is in hiding. (He fled actually.) Is this the actuation of someone who is innocent?

If Garcillano is guilty, then it follows that the conversation that GMA had with him is not a simple case of "lapse in judgement." Why would Garcillano hide? Why would he escape from the country? Aren't the answers obvious? But why is Monsod not seeing it that way?

The Hello Garci tape proves that a grave misconduct has been committed by the President. This should be simple enough to see for even the most ardent GMA supporter.

—BENJIE LUBRICO,
benj_lub@yahoo.com

People's Court will give predetermined verdict

THE IDEA OF HAVING A PEOPLE'S COURT TO try the President is a whole crock of nonsense. No reasonable person would expect this so-called court to hand down a verdict other than what its distinguished members have been stridently demanding from the President: for her to step down.

To say that it is not a kangaroo court is to insult the common sense of the Filipino people. For the recycled politicians to push us into the brink (with endless and sanctimonious posturings and media antics) is one thing; to insult our intelligence is just asking too much.

Let's heed the call of the President to move on and roll up our sleeves. Economic and job opportunities are being lost right now because of political tension.

—JOLLY DELA TORRE,
Baguio City,
attydelatorre@yahoo.com

Moving on

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The nation continues to be divided on the issue of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy. The good news, however, is that more and more Filipinos are looking within to solve the impasse:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS circling the wagons. She needs people she can trust with her life beside her, and governance can go hang. She's using all foul means to stay in her purloined high office, trampling on the constitutional rights of Filipinos. The whole world knows that she did steal the presidency twice. Gloria remains a clear and present danger to Philippine democracy if she's allowed to stay in office longer.—**Urgie F. Faderogao, 30-69 Hobart Str., Woodside, NY 11377**

* * *

Filipinos love their movie idols? Not me.

And leave God out of this... He has a lot more important things to attend to than correct our stupid behavior.

A people's court? That's zarzuela...only for the idle. Go read a good book. You will probably learn something...—**Tomas S. Ko Din, Havana House**

* * *

The Gloriagate crisis to me is a nuisance created by equally corrupt members of the opposition, including those leftist groups. Let's just do away with them. For as long as we adopt "Cory's version of democracy," nothing can legally remove the President. The impeachment proceedings failed.

Let's just do our respective duties as ordinary citizens... Let the politicians talk and talk against each other! Before you do anything, ask yourself: Is this good for my countrymen?—**Benjamin Adsuara Samonte, BSAMONTE16@aol.com**

* * *

Filipinos are an intelligent people. We must focus on the good things, stop fighting with each other, support each other.—**Florence Mackay, FF0646@aol.com**

* * *

Let everyone stop all the "*daldalan* " and just do more productive work. The election was over a long time ago. Let's move on. There are more important things in life than whether GMA stays in office or not.—**Mario T. Ramos, MTRAMOS @aol.com**

* * *

The media have a big role to play here. The people form their opinion based on what they read or hear in media. I hope media will be more responsible. Enough of political news... Accentuate the positive.—**Miguel Buencamino, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

* * *

Where we are now is really a difficult dilemma. Is this how we pay the sacrifices and the blood shed by our heroes in order to free us from bondage?

...Can a nation of hypocrites, liars, thieves and immoral leaders relieve the people's anger and thirst for peace and unity? ...The hunger for power, materialism and lack of discipline have sapped our vigor and imperiled our democratic form of government. The more we kill democracy, the worse we become as a Christian nation. The more we hide the truth, the more the results become obscured.

How can we move on without a clear destination? Our country now pitifully needs a new kind of discipline, unity, morality and the fear of God.

We have to reexamine ourselves sincerely. Our problems are not triggered by the system but by our complacency and neglect of the essential elements in nation-building... We have had so many momentous events that once gave us a promise of redemption but we dashed that promise to pieces and here we are again in search of something new.

...We can still remake ourselves from within so that we will be not remade from without.—**Monico Macariola, 5 Greenmeadows Subdivision, Quezon City (via e-mail)**

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Less VAT from poor

THIS READER DISagrees partly with the Nov. 3 INQUIRER editorial ("Premature celebration"). Theoretically, if you board a public jeep that goes 5 km per liter, the additional maximum fare of P3.50 (10 percent of the current approximate rate of diesel) is shared by at least 10 passengers.

That is a 35-centavo increase. (Multiply this by two for the return trip.) And the farther one is (such as the provinces where the majority of the poor live) from business centers, the less he/she is affected by the VAT. Those who live in the city and eat at hotels and fine restaurants will likely pay much more VAT.

Jose is a teacher in a Class 2 municipality in a province. He and the family take a passenger jeep when they travel. They do marketing in a small town store that does not care about VAT. They pay hidden VAT to the driver and to the store when they buy clothes. Food is VAT-free. How much VAT do you think Jose pays every month, all 30 days? P40?

Mark lives in Makati. His family rents a P20,000-a-month apartment, drives a P1-million car that he changes every four years, spends P1,500 per month on gas, dines at fine restaurants, watches movies regularly; the wife and children spend freely on shopping sprees. Just imagine how much Mark's family contributes to VAT collections annually.

Tone down Mark's spending capacity and habits to a regular employee making a mean average of, say, P15,000 times two (for the wife's or a sibling's earnings.) You will see that Jose's family can very much still make it to the malls and big restaurants.

It is true, there will be fewer Marks than Joses, but on the average, the government's arguments are valid. I am not a government employee or official, or a politician. Just a plain Jose.

—JOSE OROZCO,
jorozco@aol.com

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18-yr-old woman reb's body found in Leyte

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—Farmers on Tuesday found the body of an 18-year-old female rebel near the site of last week's encounter between New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and soldiers in Barangay Maslog in Baybay, Leyte.

Maj. Jose Lim, executive officer of the 43rd Infantry Battalion, identified the rebel as Maricris Opo, alias Caying of Mahaplag, Leyte.

Lim said Opo was the niece of Eddie Opo, one of two NPA rebels captured during the encounter between soldiers and 16 guerrillas near the cemetery in Maslog on All Soul's Day.

Maricris was 13 years old when she joined the NPA mainly because her relatives in Barangay San Juan in Mahaplag, a rebel-influenced area, were supporters of the underground movement, said Lim.

She was captured when she was 14 after she was wounded in an encounter with soldiers in 2001. She was given medical treatment before she was turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The DSWD sent her back to school at San Juan Elementary School in Mahaplag. But a year later, she disappeared and the military assumed that she returned to the movement.

Lim said the farmers found Maricris' body in Barangay Maslog when it started to rot and smell bad.

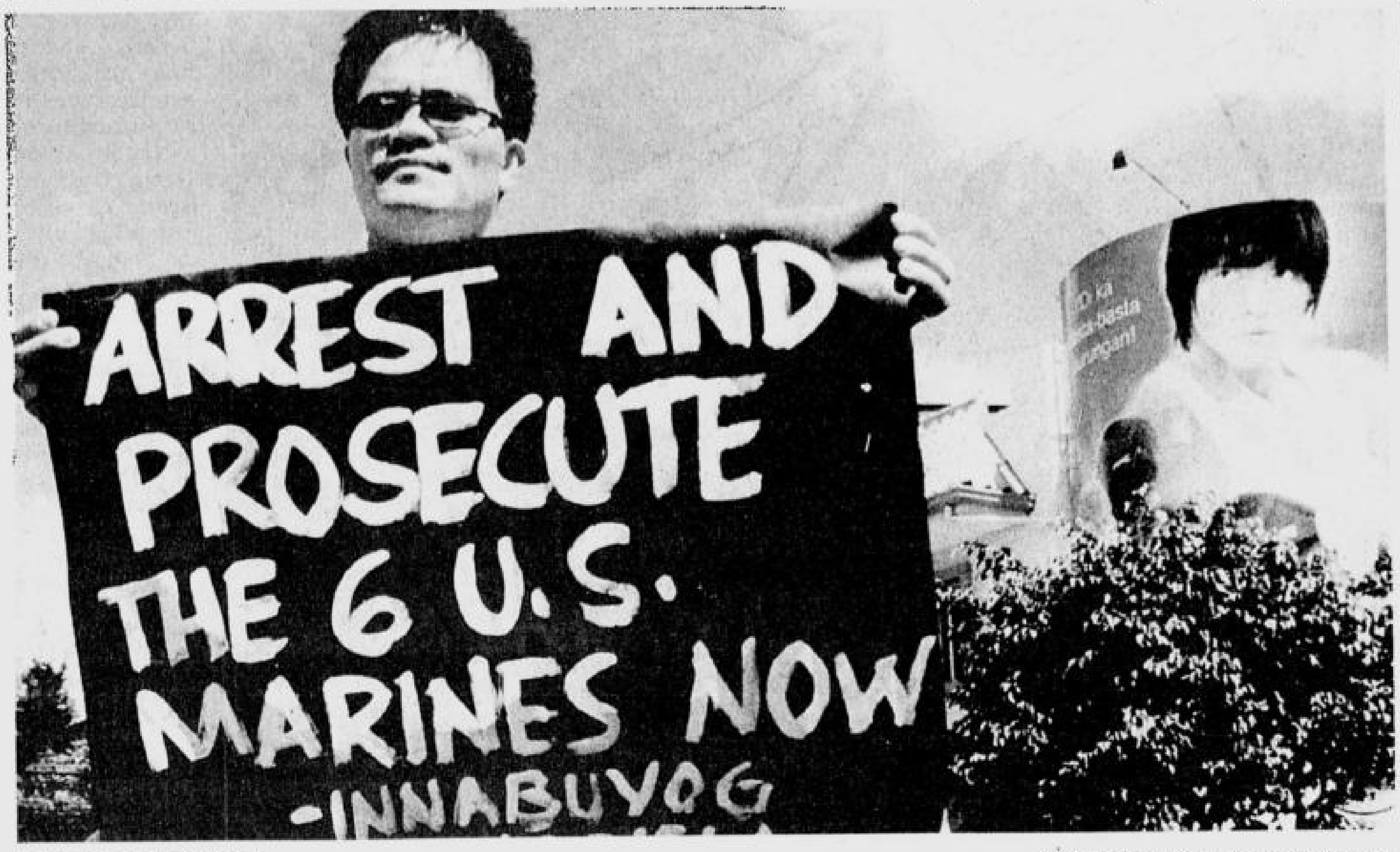
The farmers brought the body to the police station in Baybay, 20 km from Barangay Maslog.

Authorities said fleeing rebels abandoned Maricris after she died of a gunshot wound in the stomach.

An Army soldier was slightly wounded during the encounter.

Lim said the rebels were visiting the tombs of their departed loved ones when they spotted the approaching soldiers.

He said the rebels fired at the soldiers, hitting a government trooper. A 30-minute gunfight followed, after which the rebels retreated to the mountain.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VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

NATIONAL ISSUE
Baguio militants join the fray against six US servicemen accused of raping a student in Subic, under the watchful eye of a billboard featuring a Bruce Lee impersonating Robin Padilla.

Gov't urged: Close Lafayette mine now

LEGAZPI CITY—Church and civic leaders of the island municipality of Rapu-Rapu called for a permanent stop to the operations of mining firm Lafayette Phils. Inc. following a mine waste spill that leaked cyanide into the town's bodies of water.

Fr. Felino Bugauisan, Rapu-Rapu assistant parish priest and coordinator of the environmental group Sagip Isla, said the suspension by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Lafayette's operations came "a little too late."

"It's starting to bring not progress or economic growth ... but destruction to the rich and bountiful island of Rapu-Rapu and the lives of the local folk residing near the 180-hectare mining area," Bugauisan said.

He said the island was no stranger to the effects of irresponsible mining.

He said in the 1980s, a Japanese mining firm left the area after 15 years of operations, leaving the municipality contaminated with mining wastes and three of four rivers biologically dead.

He said the same could happen to Lafayette.

Lafayette's operations were suspended after Rey Juan, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) regional director, said there was unauthorized discharge of wastes from the mine's tailings pond, which contained cyanide.

But Juan ordered only the milling, not the entire mining operation, stopped.

"The open-pit operation ... will still continue, as it is not suspended," said Juan.

Bugauisan, however, said DENR officials may not be telling everything.

He said that on Oct. 11, the MGB described the spill as just a minor incident.

Clemente Bautista Jr., convenor of another environmental group Defend Patrimony, said in a phone interview that his group interviewed residents and found that the mining operation did not have their consent.

"What's happening in Rapu-Rapu is similar in a way to the infamous Marcopper mining operation in Marinduque that resulted in destruction that was beyond imagination," said Bautista.

Dr. Domingo Vergara, Rapu-Rapu District Hospital chief, advised residents to refrain from buying and eating fish and other edible marine products in contaminated areas. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Blanche Rivera, in Manila*

Benguet execs say dog meat eating is a right

PARTE NG KULTURA NAMIN ITO!

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Officials here said they would support moves to amend a national law on animal welfare to broaden the respect for the practices of indigenous communities that involved animals.

The review of the 1998 Animal Welfare Act (Republic Act 8485), they said, could include the possibility of recognizing the sale of dog meat in eateries and restaurants as legitimate business provided it is done in the Cordillera.

The Benguet provincial board this week passed a resolution reminding the Department of Agriculture and law enforcement agencies that the rights of indigenous peoples to butcher animals for ritual practices have been incorporated in RA 8485.

But the board said these rights had been often violated by lawmen who, in the past, had raided eateries selling dog meat without coordinating with the proper agencies.

In the resolution, the board members said the native practice of killing animals in the Cordillera has, to a certain extent, become commercialized and "has become an inevitable common necessity in the people's way of life."

However, it has been observed that local establishments engaged in the sale of dog meat had become victims of raids despite their compliance with the requirements of RA 8485, the resolution said.

"These raids effectively undermine the local economy while denying the people of their age-old practices," it said.

In September, members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) raided the Comiles Eatery here and seized 44 dogs and an undetermined quantity of dog meat.

"We believe that the raid was improper because it was done without coordinating with the proper authorities," Board Member Liso Agpas, a lawyer, said.

He said under RA 8485, the CIDG should have first coordinated with the DA's animal welfare committee before conducting the raid.

"Lawmen could not just confiscate dog meat or raid establishments in the guise of implementing the animal welfare law," Agpas said.

Board Member Sario Copas said the sale of dog meat is not at all surprising when done in eateries operating in the Cordillera.

"The commercialization is understood to be an offshoot of our cultural practices," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Police sue ex-judge for shooting young man

ROXAS CITY—A former municipal trial court (MTC) judge found himself on the other side of the fence when police filed frustrated homicide charges against him at the MTC for the shooting of an 18-year-old man on Sunday in Barangay Poblacion Proper in Mambusao town, Capiz.

But former judge Luney Corcino, 68, denied he shot Henry Olano, saying he did not own any firearm.

SPO4 Felimon Guillen Jr., acting Mambusao police chief, said Olano and his two companions were playing with firecrackers in front of Corcino's house.

He said Corcino went out of his house and asked bystanders to identify who was playing with the firecrackers.

Then a burst of gunfire was heard and Olano fell to the ground while his friends ran away.

The victim suffered a gunshot wound in the leg. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Ecija welcomes Palparan

PALPARAN

PALAYAN CITY—As left-wing organizations continue to call Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, as a "berdugo (executioner)" of activists, provincial officials and civic leaders welcomed him Tuesday as a "kadugo" (related by blood).

Board Member Edward Thomas Joson, president of the Nueva Ecija Blood Council Foundation Inc. (NEBCFI), said with the "kadugo" title given to Palparan, the general is expected to literally give his blood for Novo Ecijanos.

Palparan was named consultant of the blood council on Tuesday. As consultant, he is expected to be among those who will lead voluntary blood donations for Novo Ecijano patients needing transfusion.

Palparan, however, failed to donate blood in a NEBCFI activity on Monday as he had just undergone tooth extraction.

But he brought along at least 150 Army officers and men to donate blood.

Joson said the NEBCFI solicits its blood monthly to ensure a steady supply for patients in the province. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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German Greenpeace member ...

From page A1

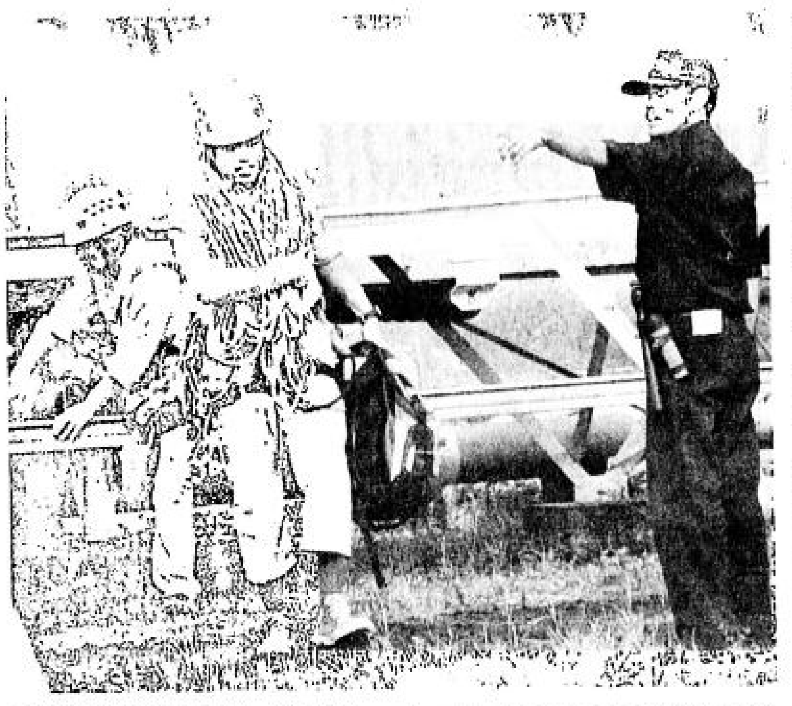
with the activists who chose instead "to resort to cheap theatrics to have its message delivered."

A New Zealander and two Filipinos were also injured when they were hit by stones hurled by the guards, Greenpeace said.

German Jens Loewe, 36, was beaten and hit with a crowbar in the face and head while he was on the ground, according to the group.

In a press statement, Napocor denied some of the activists were manhandled by its guards.

But an Agence France Presse photographer at the scene said Loewe was repeatedly hit with a crowbar and was later carried away on a stretcher and taken to a hospital in Masinloc. His condition was not immediately known.



SECURITY GUARDS at Masinloc order two Greenpeace activists out of the premises. They also fired warning shots and pelted the "intruders" with stones.

RAFFY LERMA

Bancas, rubber boats

Napocor said a police report indicated that about 20 activists "in orange coveralls and helmets onboard motorized bancas and rubber boats arrived at the plant at different points along the perimeter fence and the small craft jetty area and tried to forcibly enter using ladders and rubber floor mats."

Some of the activists were able to enter a highly restricted area and climbed the coal silos, according to Napocor.

It said plant personnel and security guards were able to persuade the activists to come down from the silos after nearly two hours of negotiations.

"When they still refused to leave the premises, a heated argument ensued between the illegal entrants and the plant guards which led to a scuffle. Cooler heads prevailed and the trespassers were later prevailed upon to withdraw and leave the premises," Napocor said.

"One trespasser, complaining of chest pains probably due to the stress of climbing the coal silo, requested to be brought to the nearest hospital. The rest of the group were turned over to the Masinloc police station. Identification revealed that the illegal entrants were composed of Filipino and foreign nationals."

Senior Supt. Edgardo Ladao, Zambales police director, said eight policemen of the Masinloc police detachment responded to the call for help by plant guards.

Ladao said charges of trespassing would be filed against the Greenpeace activists.

Disproportionate

But Greenpeace energy campaigner Red Constantino said the "violent response was disproportionate to the peaceful nature of the activity."

Authorities should have observed maximum tolerance since the plant, which was built by the government in 1996 amid protests, was a state facility, he said.

"We were attempting to stage a peaceful protest in the Masinloc coal power plant when a number of ground personnel became very violent and began to throw stones," Constantino told AFP.

"Gunshots were also fired from rifles and one of our activists was repeatedly hit in the face and beaten with a steel bar while he was immobile on the ground," he said.

"We did not have a permit (to enter the compound) but the issue of climate change is of utmost urgency and this prompted us to enter the plant."

Napocor rebuttal

Napocor, however, said Greenpeace had placed the operations of the power plant at risk.

"The power plant is a high security risk area and its operations should be protected. Masinloc is one of the major power plants in the Luzon grid that supplies power to Metro Manila and to the entire island of Luzon. As a baseload power plant, it runs continuously from morning to night, seven days a week, and serves as one of the grid's backbones for power generation," it said.

"Not only did Greenpeace expose plant operations to risk, but more importantly, it placed its own people's security and safety at risk, as well as those of our plant personnel."

Napocor said the Masinloc plant had been complying with international and local environmental standards for emissions.

Double trouble

It was the second time in two weeks that Greenpeace found itself in trouble in the Philippines, after its flagship Rainbow Warrior accidentally struck a coral reef while on a mission to expose the impact of climate change in Asia. The group later apologized for damaging the reef. *Reports by Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP and AP*

World's largest bloom

From page A1

name of the barangay where the species was found until a conservation program for the species had been adopted by the town in consultation with government agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He feared people might troop to the forest and accidentally destroy the fragile flower, its buds or the vine where the parasitic flower attaches to.

4th species found in RP

If recognized, the *R. magnifica* will be the fourth Rafflesia species to be found in the Philippines.

The *R. manillana*—regarded as the smallest known Rafflesia with flowers 15 cm to 20 cm in diameter—can be found in Luzon (most prominently on Mt. Makiling in Laguna and Mt. Isarog in Camarines Sur), Samar and Leyte.

The *R. schadenbergiana* was discovered on Mt. Apo in Davao in 1882 but has never been seen again, while the *R. speciosa* can be found in the Sibalom Natural Park in Antique.

"Once recognized, the newly discovered species could be regarded as the Philippines' largest living flower since the other species, the *R. schadenbergiana*, is probably already extinct," said Madulid.

Compared with the *R. schadenbergiana* whose flower measures around 80 cm in diameter, the new species measures between 60 cm and 70 cm in diameter.

The only bigger Rafflesia species is the one found in the forests of Sumatra in Indonesia. The *R. arnoldii* produces a flower up to a meter wide.

"But it can be tricky to catch one in bloom, much more measure it," Madulid said.

"For most of the year, Rafflesias remain in their bud stage, which lasts to about a year. Furthermore, not all buds develop to maturity and when they do, these pale creamy orange flowers (covered with lighter colored blotches) usually last less than five days."

Public attention in 2003

The existence of the unidentified Rafflesia species was first brought to public attention in 2003 when Margie Moran-Floirendo featured the flower on her television program.

"Its exact identity was not known then. When Lorenzo Tan, a wildlife enthusiast and now director of the World Wildlife Fund Philippines notified our office, we organized a team and went to Maragusan in October to look for the flower and identify it," Madulid said.

Initial surveys on the ecology and population biology of the new species have been conducted by the National Museum and De La Salle University, Manila.

Named after Sir Raffles

If accepted for publication, details of the discovery will be published in the 2006 issue of Blumea, the international horticulture classification magazine.

The flower got its name from its first European discoverers—Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, a naturalist and the British colonial administrator who founded Singapore, and botanist Dr. Joseph Arnold.

Raffles and Arnold went on an expedition in 1818 near the town of Bengkulu in Sumatra. The particular species they found was thus named *Rafflesia arnoldii*.

Baffling plant

Since then, 20 more species of Rafflesia have been identified. However, scientists believe that some of these are already extinct as sightings have not occurred for some time.

Besides being the world's largest bloom, the Rafflesia is a very strange and baffling plant.

When abloom the flower gives off a nasty smell (similar to that of a dead rat), attracting carrion flies which pollinate the plants. For pollination to occur, a male and a female Rafflesia must be blooming at the same time.

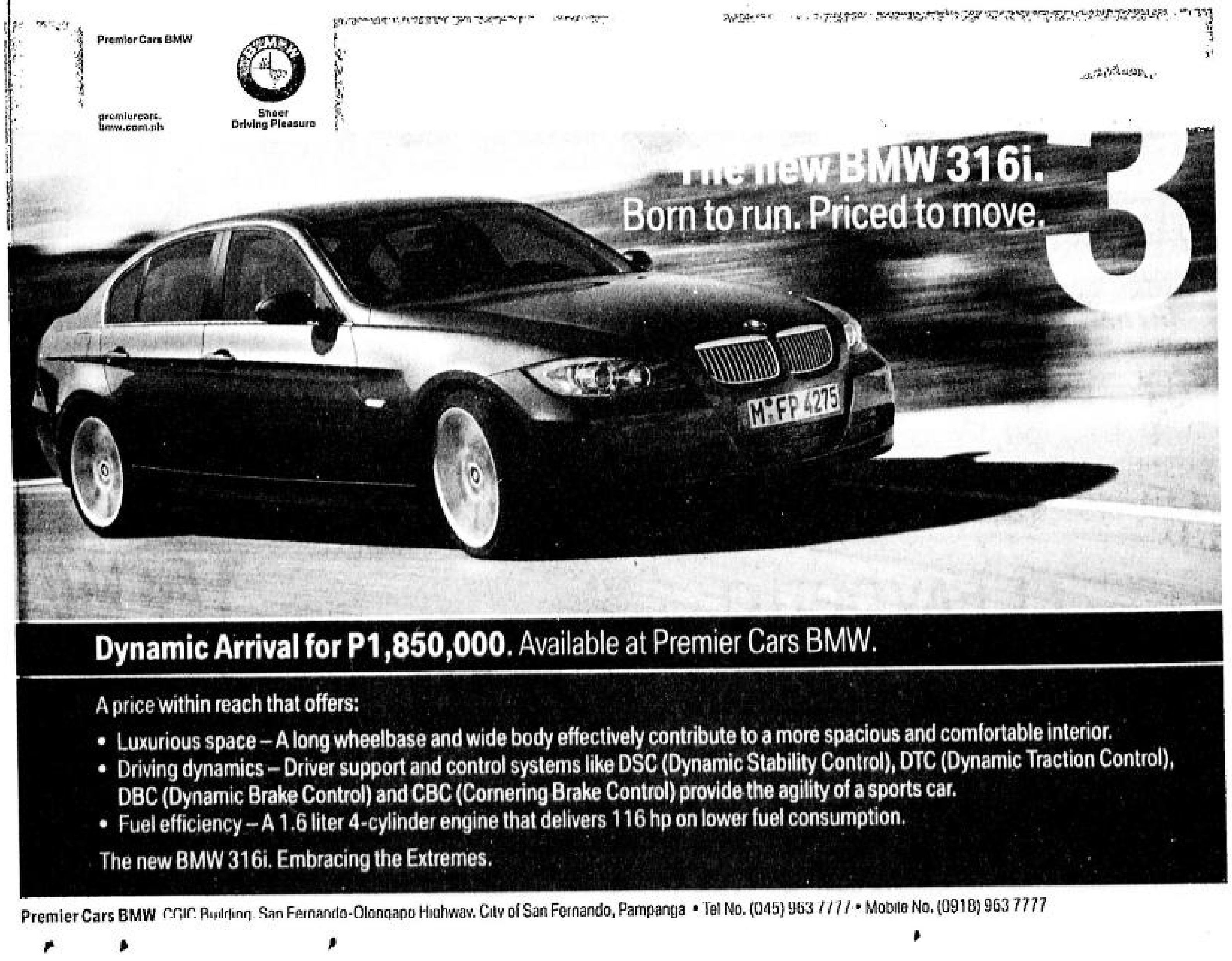
"Much more, the Rafflesia has no specific flowering season. It has no roots, stems or leaves. In addition, each flower produces thousands of seeds and these seeds can only germinate if they succeed in lodging in the tissue of the Tetrastigma vine, which crawls on rainforest floors," Madulid said.

Exclusively on a vine

This is why the Rafflesia is usually found on the forest floor. The flower extracts food from the vine by extending threadlike filaments into its tissue.

"Its penchant for attaching exclusively to the Tetrastigma partly explains why the flower is very rare and why we also need to protect the vine it attaches to," Madulid said.

The curator of the National Museum's botany division has already coordinated with Mayor Arsenio Yanong of Maragusan to develop a management strategy for the new plant species.



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UP TO 50% OFF plus FREEBIES Dine, Drink and Unwind
FREE
FLOVASE dining set for six Before:P19,996.00 NOW:P11,998.00
RYZEL Sofa set Before P17,996.00 NOW:P8,998.00
PENSY sofa set Before: P17,850.00 NOW: P11,598.00
SABRA study table Before:P4,698.00 NOW:P2,795.00
SHERYN sofa set Before: P18,330.00 NOW: P10,998.00
SUNNY dining set for six Before P14,996.00 NOW:P8,990.00
LOTUS dining set for four Before P8,270.00 NOW:P5,790.00
PHEENA divider Before P5,996.00 NOW:P2,998.00
MISTY wardrobe Before P7,560.00 NOW:P5,295.00
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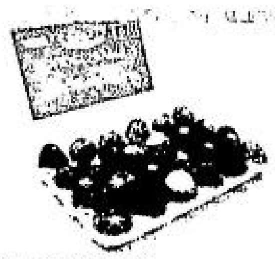
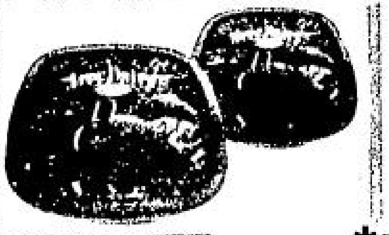
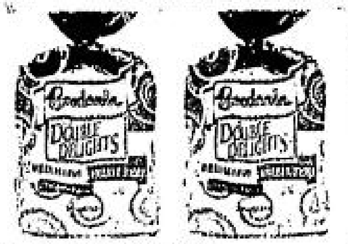
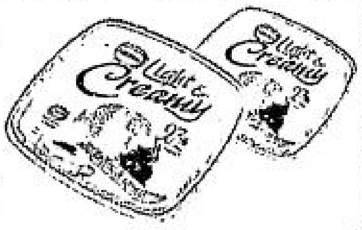
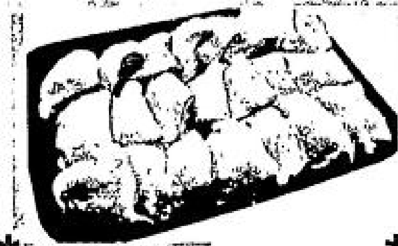
PUREFOODS
TJ HOTDOG REGULAR (1KG)
P148.95 pack*

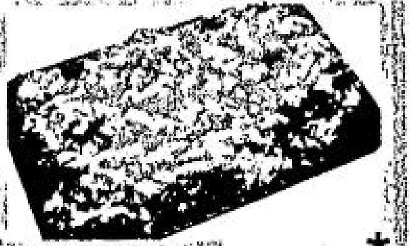

SUPERSAVERS Quail Eggs 24's P23.75 pack*

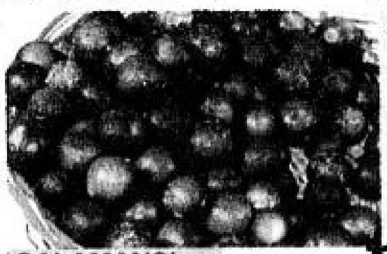

ARCE DAIRY Dark Chocolate Sugar Free 1/2 gal. P327.75 each*

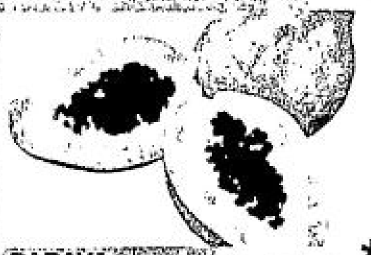

Gardenia
Double Delights
GARDENIA Double Delights Ubelicious / Cheesy Twirl 400g P39.95 each*


Light & Creamy
NESTLÉ Light & Creamy Coffee & Cream 750ml P123.50 each*


MAGNOLIA Chicken Thigh P109/kg*


MONTEREY Ground Pork P145/kg*


CALAMANSI P20/kg*


PAPAYA Solo P27/kg*

MONTEREY Kaldereta Cut P195/kg*

* Prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao

KRAFT
Eden Cheese
Hotdog Flavor
200g
P30.25 each

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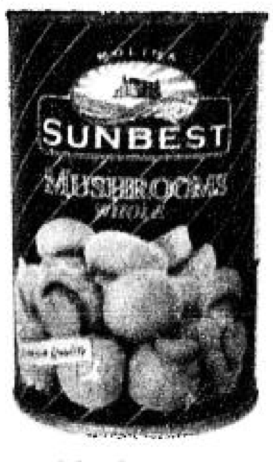
HOTDOG FLAVOR
KRAFT
IRON
Eden
May Sarap ng Hotdog

HOT BUY

SUNBEST

SUNBEST
WHOLE KERNEL SWEET CORN

Whole Kernel
Sweet Corn (425g)
P23.50 each

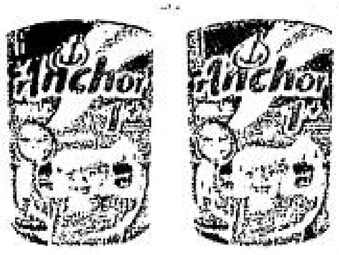

SUNBEST
MUSHROOMS
WHOLE

Mushrooms
Whole (425g)
P25.25 each

SO SOFT
Facial Tissue

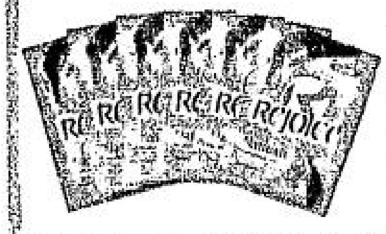
P9.50 each
Travel Pack
50 pulls

P17.75 each
Jumbo Pack
70 pulls



P598 each **ANCHOR 1+** Growing Up Milk Powder (1.8kg)

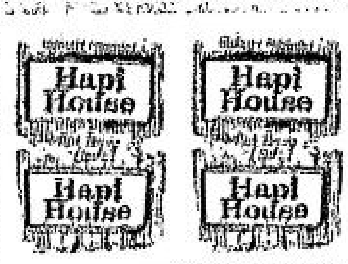
P19.50 each **ARGENTINA** Corned Beef Jr. 150g



P12.50 each **REJOICE** Naturals with Milky Cream 5ml (6's)

P12.50 each **PANTENE** Scalp Nourishing 5ml (6's)

P223.75 each **ENERVON** Prime Choco 400g.

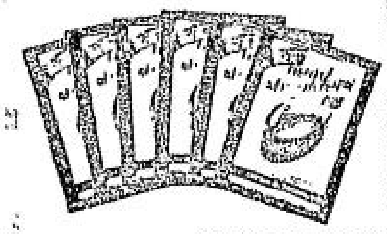


P18.50 each **HAPI HOUSE** Rich Tasting Crackers 18g (10's)

Carnation
Calcium Plus
P280 each **CARNATION** Calcium Plus 750g

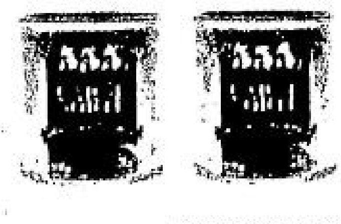
x3
TOBLERONE
P53 each **TOBLERONE** Milk Trio 35g

P93 each **ASTRING-O-SOL** Freshmint 120ml


P12.50 each **HEAD & SHOULDER** Clean & Balanced for Men 5ml (6's)

P76 each **NESVITA** Pro-Digestion Non-Fat Milk (180g)

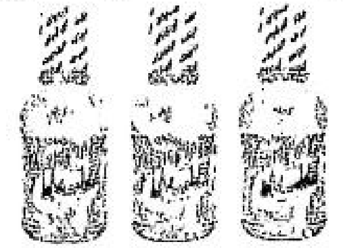
P437 each **ENERVON** Prime Vanilla 1kg

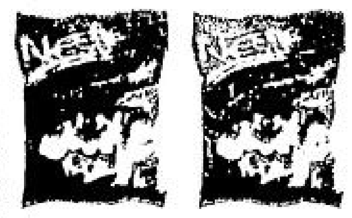


P10.50 each **555** Carne Norte 100g

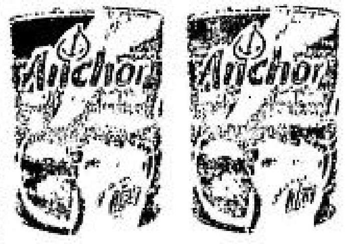
P8.25 each **NESTLE** KitKat 17g

P108 each **PRIDE** Regular 2kg


P133 each **ASTRING-O-SOL** Ice 250ml


P4.25 each **NESTLE** Knick Knacks 22g

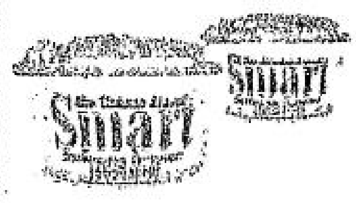
P106 each **TOBLERONE** Milk Minis 200g



P221.80 each **ANCHOR** Full Cream Milk Powder (800g)

WAFERTIME
威化餅乾時代
P19.50 each **WAFERTIME** Buttermilk 15g (10's)

Argentina
Beef Loaf
P13.75 each **ARGENTINA** Beef Loaf 170g



P26.50 each **SMART** Dishwashing Paste Lemon (400g)

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MANGO CHEESECAKE

EL FAVORITO
Super Special
Mango Cheesecake
Half Gallon
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- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Banilad Town Center, Cebu
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

Caloocan City gives reading habit a boost

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO READ MUST not only be the responsibility of school teachers but parents as well.

Carmenia Abel, head of the City's Cultural Affairs and Tourism Office (CATO), said if children were introduced to reading while they were young, they would keep the habit until they grew up.

CATO organized a storytelling and reading session from 2 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the Caloocan City High School gym and on Nov. 25 at the Camarin Elementary School covered court to mark the Library and Information Services month.

"The project was aimed to encourage parents to share the love of reading with their children, especially the younger ones," Abel said.

Noting that several Caloocan barangays were considered depressed areas, the CATO head said poverty should not prevent people from enjoying reading.

Some 500 parents and children from five barangays were invited to the storytelling sessions. "The parents' reading to their children should encourage the habit of reading, not just help the youngsters fall asleep," the CATO head said. "We decided to involve the parents in this program so they would appreciate the value of developing in their children the habit of reading," she added.

Children from barangay day care centers in the two city districts would also be treated to storytelling sessions from 4-5 p.m., Nov. 14, by the Alitaptap Storytellers Club at the city's public library on 10th Avenue.

Though primarily designed to promote creativity, the CATO head said the event also aimed to familiarize the children with the city library. Most Caloocan residents, she said, did not know the city had a library.

"We want to encourage them to explore the library as part of the city's literacy program," Abel said.

Manila orders crackdown on illegal money changers

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT yesterday warned illegal money-changing shops in the city against taking advantage of visitors coming to the city in the coming weeks.

The warning was issued with the expected boom in the money-changing business because of the anticipated arrival of many foreign tourists and overseas Filipino workers for the coming Southeast Asian Games on the third week of November and the Christmas season.

City and police officials said they did not want a repeat of an incident in April when the wife of Kenya's delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union was shortchanged by a money-changing shop in Malate.

Taib Abdurahman, president of the Association of Authorized Foreign Exchange Buyers of Central Bank of the Philippines Inc., their business had been affected by complaints against illegal money changers.

He admitted their profits dropped by about 50 percent as clients now preferred to go to money-changing shops in other cities.

Abdurahman and several foreign exchange shop owners met yesterday with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who vowed to crack down on unscrupulous traders.

He said the mayor directed the Manila Police District to monitor the activities of erring establishments.

"He said he would personally inspect and padlock foreign exchange shops found to be operating without the necessary business permits as well as those shortchanging their clients," Abdurahman told reporters.

Meanwhile, the city government ordered the local police force to review security measures in SEAG venues.

The city government issued the order as part of the preparations for the coming athletic event to be held in various parts of the country. Most of the major sports events, will be held at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila.

City Hall stepped up security measures to protect athletes and sports officials participating in the 23rd SEAG Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 and hosted by the Philippines. Manila city officials also ordered a tight watch on malls and other shopping areas, as well as other public places that the foreign athletes might visit.

The city officials said additional security checks would be set up, and more security personnel would be deployed in strategic areas.

METROBRIEFS

Busy thieves

POLICE yesterday warned the public to be more careful with their valuables particularly with the approach of the holiday season. "This is the time of the year when criminals are extra busy," said Chief Insp. Rito Gatocilo, Northern Police District Chief of Investigation. Gatocilo issued the warning after two overseas workers lost their documents and jewelry to robbers in Valenzuela City the other day. Police identified the victims as Sylvia Ong and Floribel Manuel who were robbed of their passports, plane tickets, permit to stay and other identification cards. Also taken from the victims' rented apartment in Unit-E Lopez Compound, Marulas, were assorted expensive watches and jewelry amounting close to 16,500 euros or the equivalent of more than P106,000 and two digital cameras.

Nancy C. Carvajal

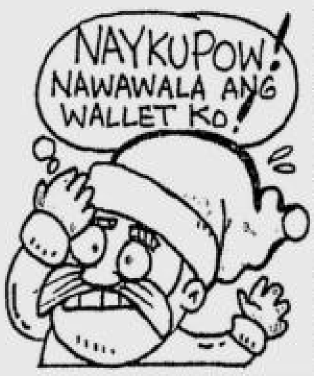

NAYKUPOW! NAWAWALA ANG WALLET KO!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Price monitor teams out

PRICE monitoring teams are set to be deployed in different Manila public markets to protect consumers from unscrupulous traders taking advantage of the implementation of the Value Added Tax (VAT). City Market Administrator Warren Codina has been tasked to ensure that these teams are regularly fielded to conduct random checks not only on prices of basic commodities but also on weighing scales to ensure that consumers get a fair deal when they do business in the city markets. Mayor Lito Atienza said there should be no reason for market traders to take advantage of the VAT by increasing their prices because the rates they pay for the stall, including water and electricity rates, are virtually subsidized at P6 to P15 a day.

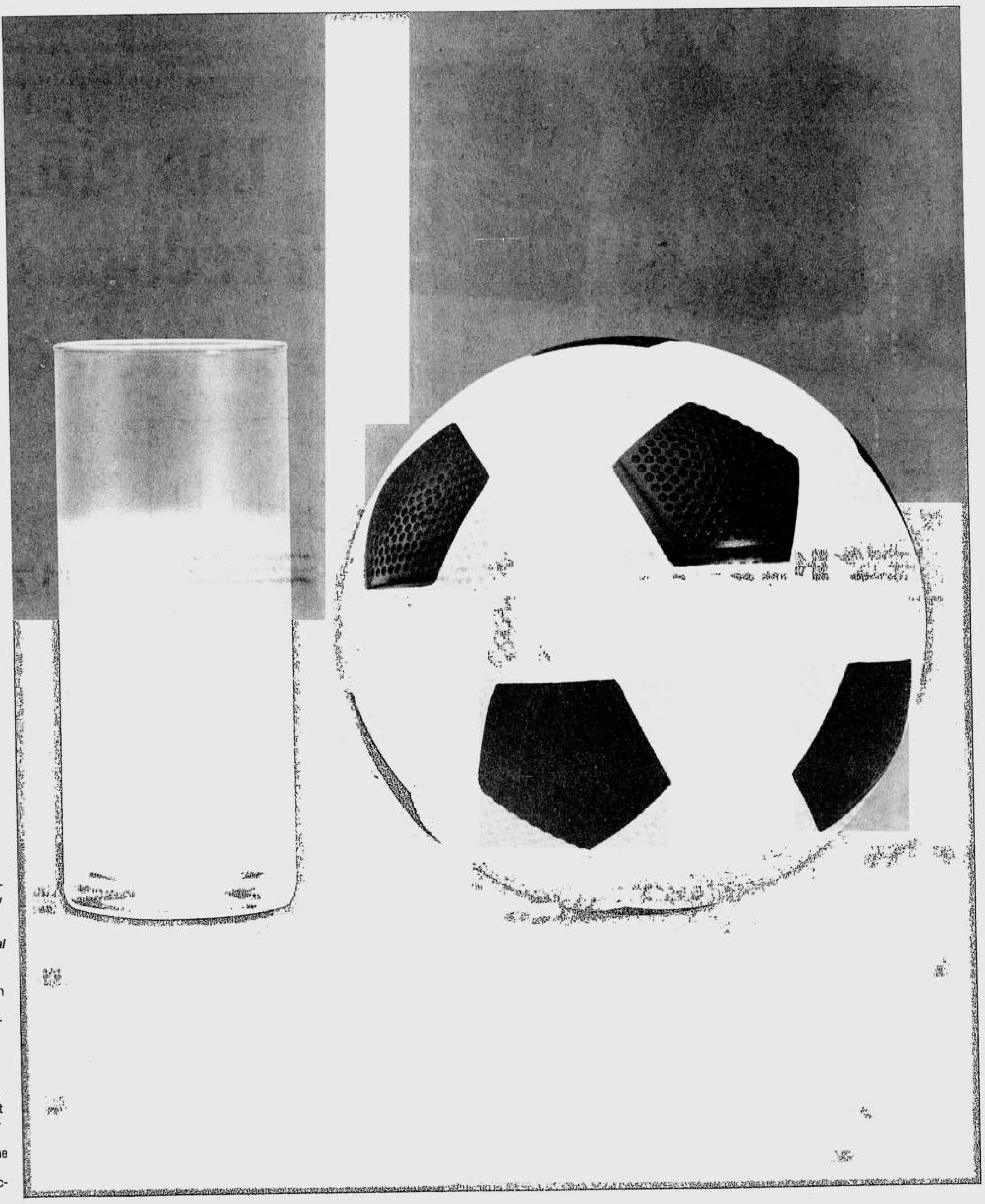
Tina G. Santos

AGOSTO

TOGONON

Joey and Ramiro need help

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Joey Agosto wants to go back to school—but he can't. Diagnosed with aplastic anemia, Joey needs three years of treatment. He is currently undergoing blood transfusion and medication at the Cancer Institute. Ramiro Togonon, 16, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in January 2002. Joey's parents, Carmen and Juanito, can barely shoulder the cost of his medicines, which amount to P3,000 per week. Ramiro's family cannot cover his medical expenses as well. Joey, Ramiro and their families are appealing to kind-hearted readers for financial and medical assistance. Interested parties may contact Joey and his parents 6206807 and 0919-4037323 or send their donations through Banco de Oro at SSE 440020468 c/o Maria S. Roa. Ramiro's mother Edna can be reached at 4449027 or 0919-4981090.



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Lack of warrant aborts police raid

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A TEAM OF THE PHILIPPINE National Police Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG) Task Force Limbas failed to inspect yesterday a garage allegedly storing stolen cars for lack of a search warrant.

Neighbors reportedly said the small car shop owned by Avelino Fortea at 49 Kanlaon Street, Barangay Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City, accepted car modification jobs.

But Fortea's lawyer, Byron San Pedro, said, "There is no stolen vehicle inside... they are not hiding anything illegal."

The lawyer said a legal team was considering the filing of charges against the PNP-TMG for harassing the Forteas.

San Pedro said the PNP-TMG operatives arrived at around 3 a.m. yesterday.

"My clients knew the police needed a warrant to enter," he said.

The police waited for the search warrant, but the document had not been issued up to lunch time yesterday.

San Pedro said the family's clients could vouch for the legitimacy of the business.

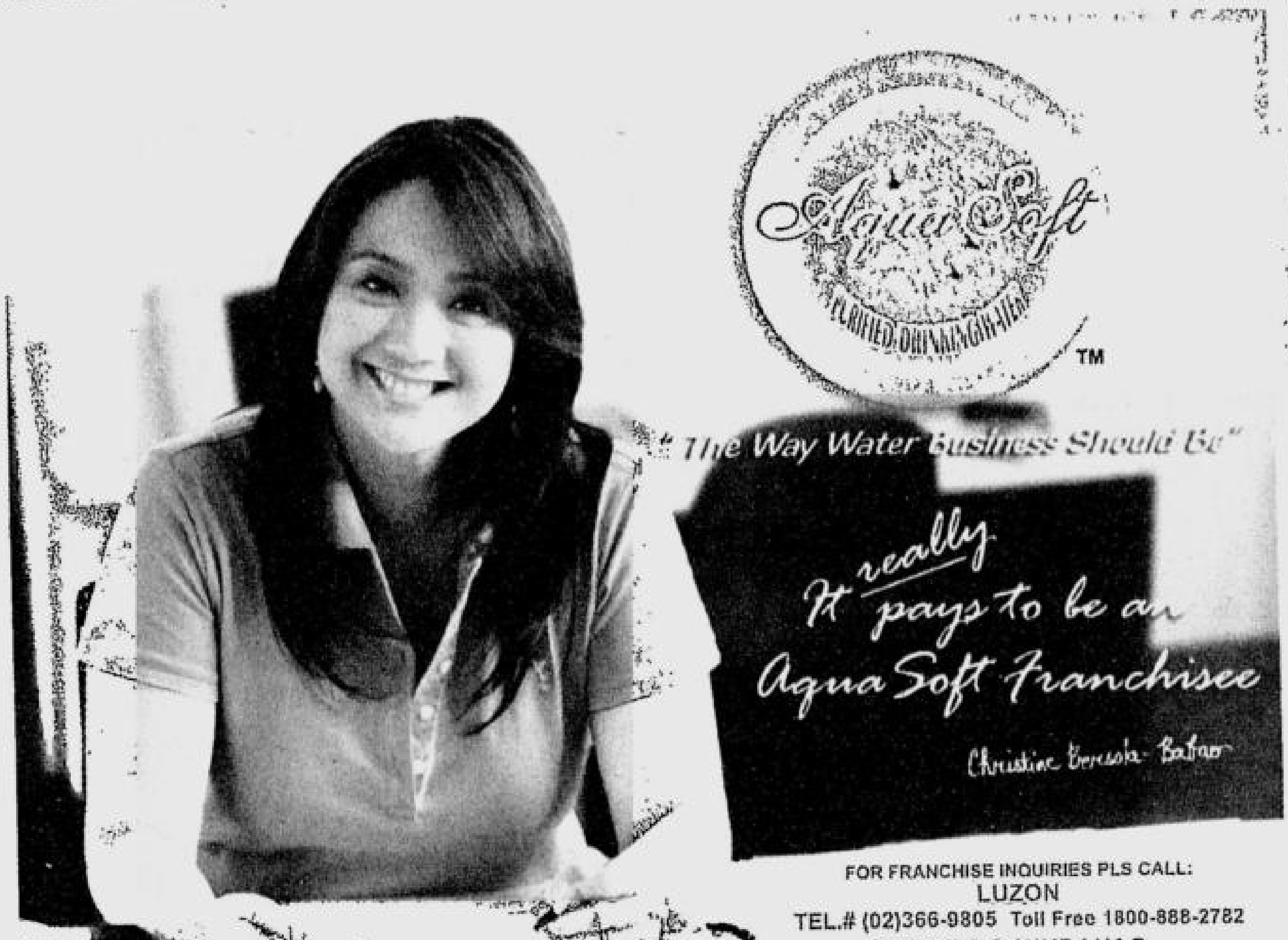
The lawyer said the shop had a permit from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), although it did not have a business permit from the local government.

Local business licensing officers said the shop would be shut down soon after failing to get a business permit for five years.

The family lawyer said the lapse was being remedied.

Fortea's neighbor, Adolfo Foz, vouched for the Forteas, saying they were devout members of El Shaddai, a Catholic charismatic group.

CHAT MATES
Two women engage in shop talk at Manila's Baywalk strip, unmindful of the bad weather.
EDWIN BACASMAS



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Las Piñas City records first car hijack case

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CAR HIJACKERS APPEAR TO have expanded their area of operation in Metro Manila.

Four car thieves struck shortly after midnight on Wednesday in Las Piñas, victimizing a resident of an exclusive subdivision in the city.

The incident was a first in the city, according to police Chief Insp. Ferjen Torred, criminal investigation department chief of Las Piñas, in a phone interview yesterday.

Danny Sison, 52, told the police he was on his way home to BF Resort Village in Barangay Talon Dos at 12:30 a.m. when four armed suspects in a maroon Mitsubishi Lancer flagged him down along Canaynay Road, BF Martinville, Barangay Manuyo 2.

The suspects then boarded Sison's Toyota Prado model 2005 with plate number ZAR-267.

Sison told the police the men covered his face with plastic, making it difficult for him to recognize the car jackers.

The suspects took his wallet containing his automated teller machine (ATM) and credit cards, as well as his wedding ring, a wristwatch, $400 in cash and a laptop costing P120,000.

Police inspector Neshner Mendez of Station 4 said the suspects got the victim's Personal Identification Number and withdrew some P70,000 from the ATM using Sison's card.

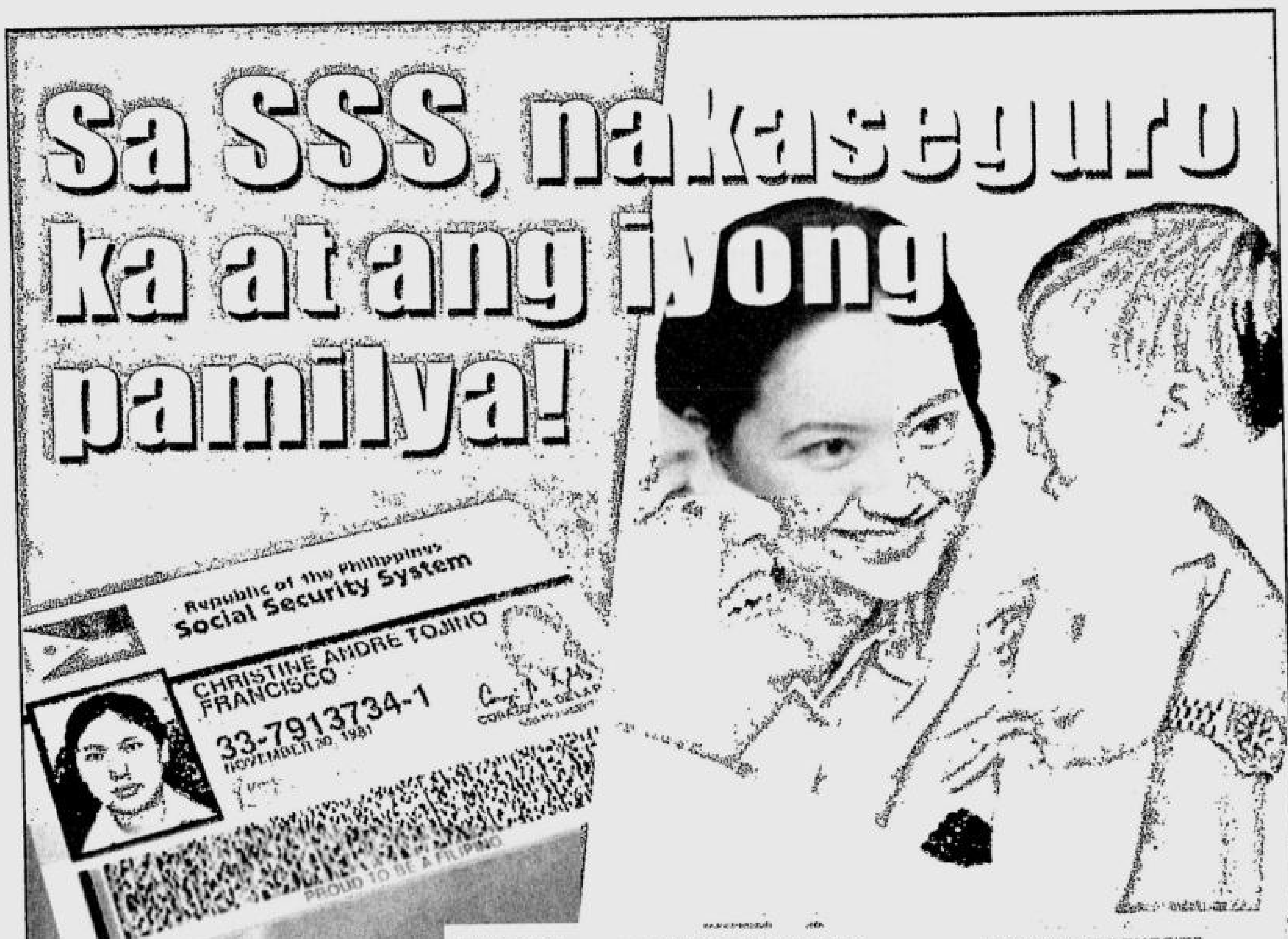
Sison was dropped off unharmed on Leveriza Street in Pasay City. The suspects then sped off in the victim's sports utility vehicle, Mendez said.

Torred said the local police was conducting follow up operations and asked for the community's help in solving the case.

In Quezon City, which has earned the title as the nation's "Car Theft Capital," the police's anti-carnapping unit had already recorded 12 carjackings and five thefts in parked cars this month.

The other day, three suspected car thieves were killed in an alleged shootout with Traffic Management Group (TMG) in the busy Ortigas Center in Pasig City on Monday night. The suspects were identified as Anthony Dulay, Francis Xavier Manzano and Anton Guillermo Cu-Unjieng.

Police said the three were believed to be remaining members of the Valle Verde gang, a group involved in car robberies in the late 1990s and in early 2001.



Sa SSS, nakaseguro ka at ang iyong pamilya!
Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System
CHRISTINE ANDRE TOJINO FRANCISCO
33-7913734-1
NOVEMBER 30, 1981
PROUD TO BE A FILIPINO

TYPES OF BENEFITS	QUALIFYING CONDITIONS	AMOUNT OF BENEFITS
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Maternity	At least 3 monthly contributions within the 12-month period immediately prior to the semester of childbirth or miscarriage	Maternity benefit = 100% of ave. daily salary credit multiplied by 60 days for normal delivery or miscarriage or 78 days for caesarian delivery; Up to first 4 deliveries or miscarriages only
Retirement	120 monthly contributions prior to the semester of retirement Age - 60 to 64 yrs. (optional); 65 yrs. (mandatory)	Minimum monthly pension: P1,200 - if with at least 120 monthly contributions; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 120 monthly contributions - total contributions paid plus interest
Disability (Partial/ total)	At least 36 months prior to the semester of disability	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension and Supplemental allowance of P500; Lump sum: if less than 36 monthly contributions
Death	At least 36 months prior to the semester of death	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 36 monthly contributions
Funeral	At least one monthly contribution	P20,000 is given to whoever pays the deceased member's burial expenses

Kapag ikaw ay active SSS member, empleyado man, self-employed o voluntary, may proteksyon ka at ang iyong pamilya. Maraming benepisyo ang mapapasaiyo ---- sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death benefits at funeral grant. Mayroon ding Employees' Compensation (EC) benefits para sa mga work-connected na pagkakasakit, pagkabalda o pagkamatay.

Kaya kung hindi ka pa SSS member, magsadya lamang sa pinakamalapit na tanggapan ng SSS at mag-fill out ng application form. Kung ikaw ay rehistradong miyembro na, siguraduhing regular ang pagbabayad ng iyong monthly contributions para makatanggap ng mga SSS benefits.

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Pet rights protected by new Makati code

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNMENT passed this week a comprehensive ordinance on pet care.

City Ordinance 2004-A-010 or the Makati City Animal Regulation and Control Code would, among others, requires pet owners to register their animal companions with the city or barangay.

"The code aims to promote responsible pet ownership and seeks to prevent animal bites and stray animals in public places in the interest of public safety and health," the ordinance stated.

The Makati City Hall said fines of up to P2,000 would be imposed on violators, and their pets would be confiscated.

To be implemented before the end of the year, the code provides guidelines for responsible pet ownership and lists the duties of a pet owner.

Authored by Councilors Erlinda Gonzales and Nelson Pasia, the code limits each household to two adult dogs or three adult cats, unless a special permit is obtained from the City Animal Registrar.

The code creates the City Animal Control Facility, a division of the City Veterinary Office, which will maintain an animal diagnostic laboratory and impounding area. "The City of Makati believes in upholding animal rights. We believe the premier financial center should be a haven for both man and animal," the council said in a statement.

The ordinance enables the city to license and tag pets for health and sanitary purposes. Licenses, which are required of pet owners, will only be issued if pets have anti-rabies shots.

Owners shall make sure pets have in their collars or harnesses tags containing registration information. When brought out, pets, particularly dogs, should be leashed.

The council said the restriction would "prevent animals from becoming a danger to other persons, or from trespassing in the property of others."

Owners are required to keep their animals from defecating in public places and somebody else's property. They are also enjoined to keep their pets as quiet as possible.

The new code penalizes animal cruelty and requires owners to pay for any damage or injury their pets may cause.

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No room for fat policemen in Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT (MPD) Headquarters no longer has room for overweight policemen.

MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday launched a special fitness program especially designed for "Manila's Finest."

"Transforming our Manila policemen through physical fitness will create a new breed of cops with increased strength and vigor, which is the key to effective crime suppression and prevention," Bulaong said in a statement.

Former Swedish Marine Lt. Roger Lindevall of the Philippine Council for Strength and Fitness Inc. (PCSF) will supervise the MPD's physical fitness program, according to Bulaong.

Lindevall explained that the Manila policemen would be required to undergo *arnis* self-defense training, weight training, police obstacle course activities, physical ability tests, fighting fitness for female members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team, bodybuilding, and a 12-week "extensive tummy trimming weight reduction system."

The MPD had earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with the PCSF to draft and initiate a fitness program suited for the Manila policemen.

Bulaong also said that the MPD would be hosting its first championship bodybuilding competition at the Manila Police Academy on Dec. 10.

The competition will be part of a fund-raising project to renovate the MPD gym and purchase new equipment and facilities.

"A fit police officer will possess the necessary physical, mental and emotional stability to perform police work," Bulaong stressed.

Ali Atienza, head of the Manila City government sports development program, had also pledged to help the MPD build a fitness gym inside the police headquarters.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Safety concerns in Las Piñas gas stations reinforced

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IN A BID TO PROTECT MOTORISTS, THE Las Piñas City Council has drafted an ordinance reinforcing safety measures in gas stations, especially when refueling vehicles.

"The biggest danger posed against the lives of innocent people including consumers and motorists themselves inside a gasoline station is the sudden ignition of fire due to unsafe practices," stated Councilor Romeo Villaraza in his draft ordinance.

The draft ordinance reiterated the five pillars of safe refueling measures set by the Department of Energy: no smoking at the forecourt; no straddling in motorbikes while refueling; mobile phones must be turned off as well as the vehicle's engine, and only gas in authorized containers must be sold to consumers.

Signages with these precautions, either in Filipino or English, must be put up in conspicuous areas, the draft ordinance said.

Villaraza added that pump attendants and other personnel must undergo seminars to educate them on how to manage and inform customers of the safety measures.

The fire department, through its chief officer or his deputized agents, will oversee the strict implementation of the ordinance.

Violation of any of these measures would entail station owners and managers a fine of P2,000 on first offense. Pump attendants will be suspended for one week.

A P4,000-fine faces owners and station managers on the second offense, while attendants will be suspended for a month.

Business permits will be revoked on the third offense.

Driving sans license plates cost him plenty

By Margaux Ortiz

DO NOT DRIVE VEhicles without any license plates.

A De La Salle University student learned this lesson the hard way when operatives of the Manila Police District (MPD) shot the tires of his Honda CRV after he went against the flow of traffic on Quezon Boulevard following a brief car chase the other day.

Jackson Tan Ong, 23, a BS Computer Applications student, now faces charges of reckless driving and damage to property after his CRV rammed into four vehicles near Plaza Miranda, according to MPD District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) head Supt. George Gaddi.

When DIID operatives noticed that Ong's vehicle had no plates at the Liwasang Bonifacio area around 2:30 p.m., they tried to flag down the CRV in keeping up with the PNP's "no plate, no travel" policy, Gaddi explained.

The police decided to go after Ong when he ignored them, Gaddi said.

"Apparently scared, he drove his vehicle toward Quezon Bridge and went against the flow of traffic, damaging four vehicles in the process," Gaddi said.

He explained that the DIID operatives had to shoot the CRV's tires to prevent further havoc.

PO2 Ireneo Sosas of the MPD Station 3 added that apart from deflated wheels, the Honda CRV also had bullet holes on its fender. Ong was brought to the MPD Headquarters but was released in the custody of his lawyer early yesterday morning, Gaddi said.

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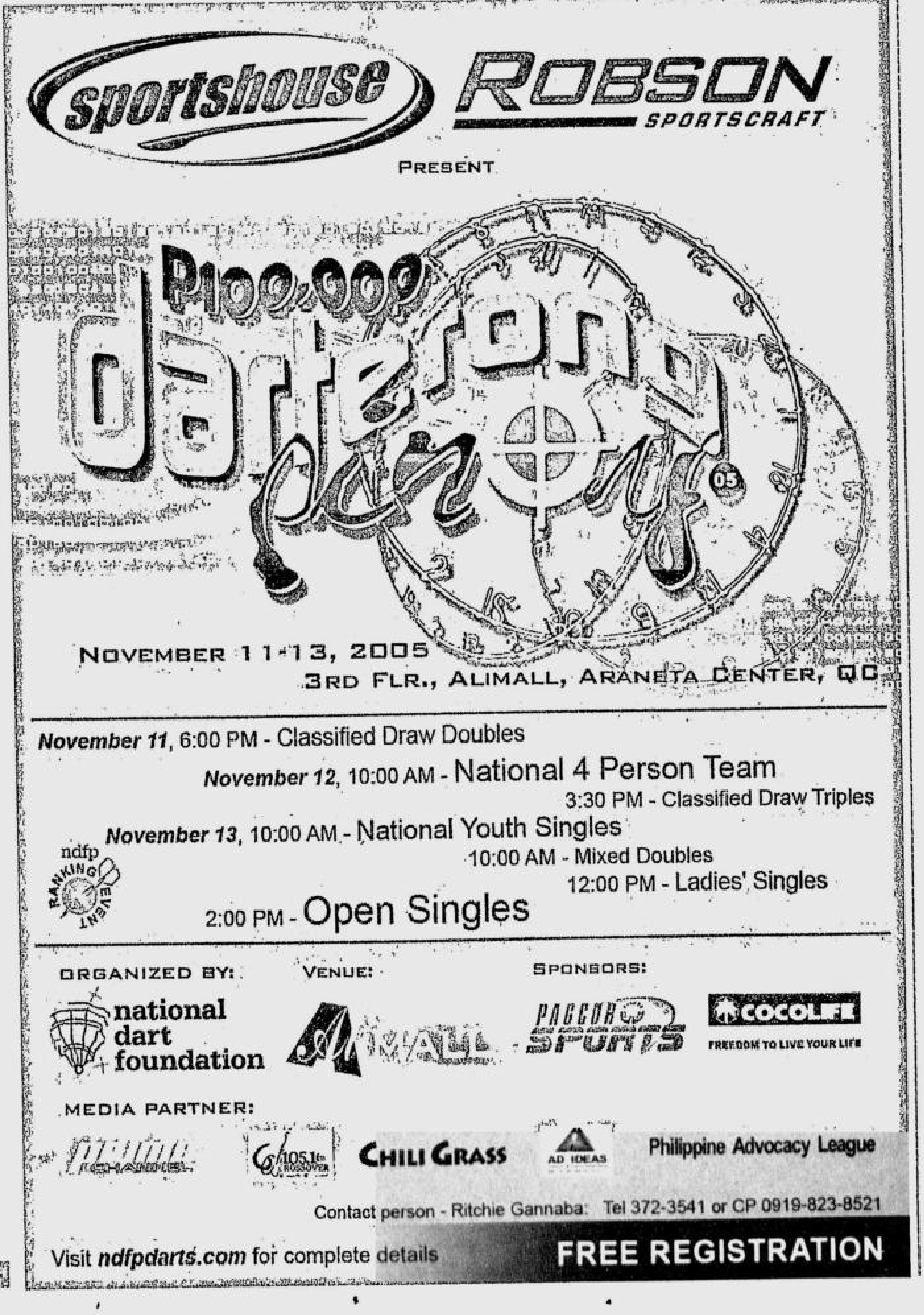

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Harbour Centre rips FEI, gains tie for No.1

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	2	0
Harbour	2	0
Granny-T	2	1
Hapee-PCU	1	1
Rain or Shine	1	1
Montaña	1	2
FE Insurance	0	2
Toyota Otis	0	2

GAMES TOMORROW
(*FEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Hapee-PCU
6 p.m.—Far Eastern Ins. vs Rain or Shine

HARBOUR Centre's Marcy Arellano falls on the slippery floor but still manages to pass off Mark Yee of Far Eastern Insurance. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DIMINUTIVE ROOKIE MARCY Arellano hit 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to lead Harbour Centre to an 87-78 victory over Far Eastern Insurance yesterday and a share of the lead in the PBL Heroes Cup at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

The 5-foot-10 University of the East point guard made sure the Insurers won't be able to come back in the payoff period as the Port Masters notched their second straight win.

Harbour Centre joined idle Magnolia at the top while the Insurers suffered their second loss in a row.

The Granny Goose Tortillos earlier welcomed coach Joe Lipa with a resounding 74-59 win over Montaña Pawnshop behind Jett Latonio and Toti Almeda.

The Tortillos improved to 2-1 while Montaña fell to 1-2.

The Port Masters also got inspired performances from Joseph Yeo and Kelvin dela Peña, who scored 12 markers.

HARBOUR/ A26

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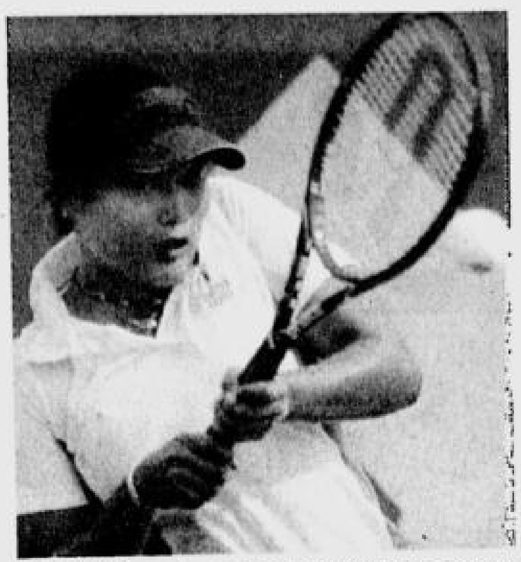


AREVALO continues her amazing run. RYAN LIM

Arevalo, Dy barge into Holcim semis

By Roy Luarca

CZARINA MAE AREVALO IS STARTING to reap the benefits of her foreign training.

The Filipino wild card, coming off a five-month stint in India, barged into the quarterfinals of the $10,000 Holcim ITF Women's Circuit with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over American qualifier Maureen Diaz yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 20-year-old Arevalo, the spearhead of the country's women's tennis campaign in the coming Southeast Asian Games, will meet the winner between No. 7 Korean Kim Hae-sung and Briton Georgie Stoop, whose match was reset due to darkness.

Joining Arevalo in the next round was Fil-American Denise Dy, who scored a 6-3, 6-1 win over Hong Kong qualifier Zhang Ling. Dy, also a member of the RP team, next faces No. 5 Taiwanese Chen Yi, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over local qualifier Melissa Orteza.

World No. 695 and top seed Korean Lyoo-Suh Hee-sun eliminated local wild card Anja Vanessa Peter, 6-2, 6-2, to advance against Israeli qualifier Efrat Zlotikamin, who beat Korean Seo Soon-Mi, 6-2, 7-5.

Third seed Briton Rebecca Fong downed Taiwan's Kao Shao-Yuan, 6-4, 6-3, to forge a quarterfinal meeting with Korean Lim Sae-mi, who prevailed over Hong Kong qualifier Chan Wing-yau, 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles: Rachel Hall (UK)-Hiromi Okazaki (Japan) d. Natasha Khan-Georgie Stoop (UK), 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; Chen Yi-Kao Shao-yuan (Taiwan) d. Arevalo-Dy (RP), 6-3, 6-1; Rebecca Fong (Britain)-Pichittra Thongdach (Thailand) d. Marie Zalameda (US)-Noelle Zoleta (RP), 6-0, 6-0; Maureen Diaz-Julianna Gates (US) d. Ara Micayabas-Aileen Rogan (RP), 6-1, 6-2; Chan Wing-yau-Zhang Ling (HK) d. Anja Vanessa Peter (RP)-Efrat Zlotikamin (Israel), 6-2, 6-1; Lee Jin-A-Lim Sae-mi (SK) d. Trudy Gine Amoranto-Michelle Pang (RP), 6-1, 6-0; Kim Jung-eun-Kim Yeon-ju (SK) d. Eva Olivares-Ilas-Melissa Rose Orteza (RP), 6-3, 6-2.

San Mig-Air21 rematch today; Kings eye No.5

THEIR ONLY WIN ACHIEVED AT THE EXpense of the Air21 Express, the San Miguel Beermen are hoping to repeat the act and begin their climb out of the cellar in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference today at the Araneta Coliseum.

But the Beermen will have to do it sans Rico Hill, who starred in that double-overtime thriller in Roxas City two weeks back. Hill's PBA stint was cut short when the Beermen decided to replace him with Kwan Johnson.

Though Johnson wasn't as spectacular as expected during the Beermen's losing effort against the Sta. Lucia Realtors Wednesday night, San Miguel (1-6) is sticking with its veteran import.

Johnson helped the Beermen vault back from a 0-5 start in the 2003 Reinforced Conference where San Miguel took runner-up honors after losing Game 7 in its titular series with Coca-Cola.

The Beermen are hoping the former University of New Orleans standout could weave the same old magic for the Express today at 4:40 p.m.

Also going for a repeat win are the Barangay Ginebra Kings when they clash with the Red Bull Barako in the main game at 7:25 p.m.

Unbeaten since the return of Eric Menk, the Gin Kings (6-3) are seeking a fifth straight win to stay half a game behind the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals (6-2).

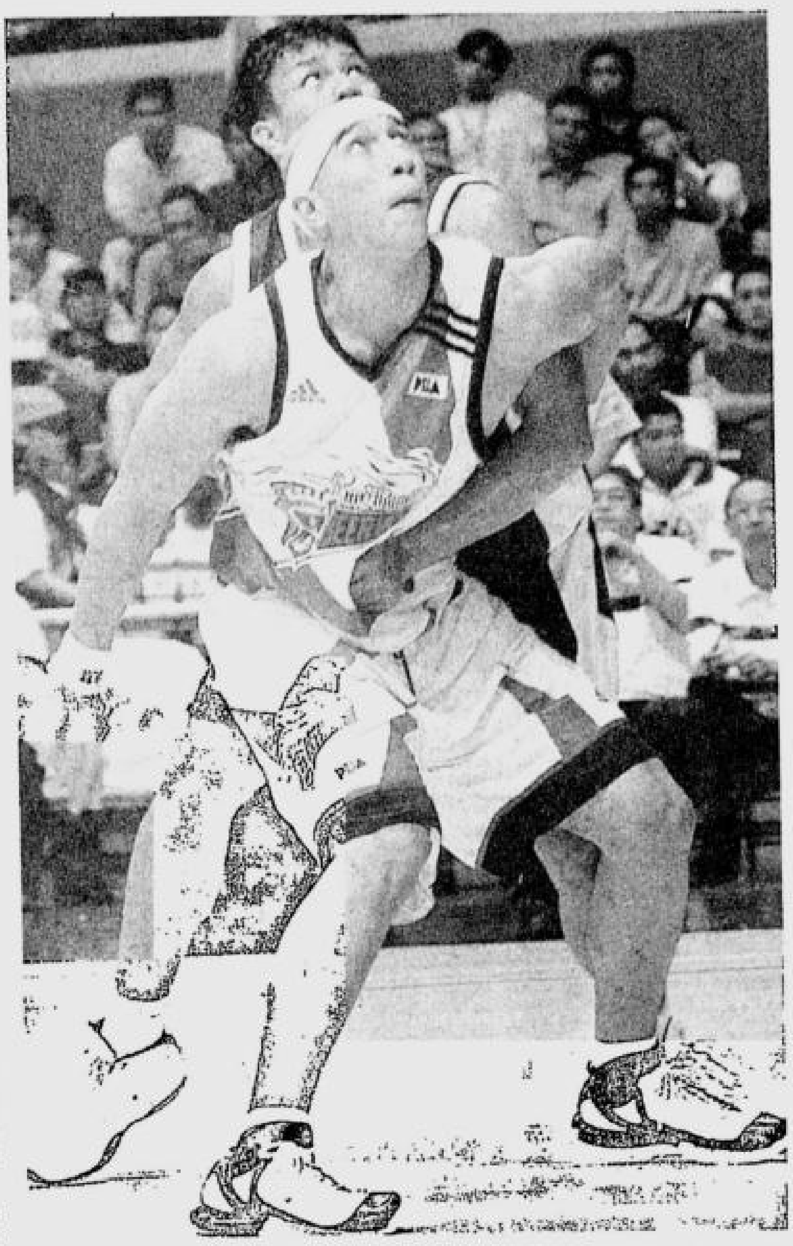
Purefoods Chunkee (7-2) is back in the solo lead after beating Coca-Cola Wednesday.

The Express, who are expected to reactivate Ranidel De Ocampo from sick bay, will try to bounce from the Ginebra debacle and improve their 3-5 record.

The Gin Kings try to duplicate that win in the other game against the Red Bull Barako, who are reeling from back-to-back losses after winning four of their first six games. *June Navarro*

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	7	2
Talk 'N Text	6	2
Ginebra	6	3
Alaska	5	3
Red Bull	4	4
Air21	3	5
Sta. Lucia	3	6
Coca-Cola	2	6
San Miguel	1	6

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Air21
7:25 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Barangay Ginebra



STA. LUCIA'S Ricky Calimag and San Miguel Beer's Nick Belasco jockey for the rebound in Wednesday night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Everything's set for grand SEA Games opening rite

EVERYTHING IS NOW IN PLACE—FROM SEcurity to production numbers—for the elaborate opening ceremonies of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Quirino Grandstand.

Officials behind the three-hour show went to the Luneta yesterday to personally inspect the main stage and parade grounds and discuss the security details for the Nov. 27 kickoff rite.

"All preparations are now in place," said Virgilio Nadal, executive producer of the opening and closing committees of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee.

"Only minor details are to be polished, particularly the security arrangement in the area. But overall, we're very optimistic about it… they are going to love the show."

President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the nation in welcoming the more than 7,000 athletes, officials, members of the diplomatic corps and foreign guests in the ceremony that will be broadcast live in the region.

The local broadcast pool is composed of government networks IBC-13, NBN-4 and RPN-9, as well as ABC-5.

Overall director and producer Maria Montelibano was not around yesterday during the inspection at the Quirino Grandstand, but her assistant, noted stage director Robert Tongco, said a dry run of the various opening activities will be held next week to finalize all the details, including the security measures.

"This is an open field, so the organizers are expecting about 300,000 people to witness the event," said Tongco. "It's a security nightmare, and proper coordination is needed among security committee, protocol and secretariat."

During a coordination meeting at the Luneta VIP lounge, Manila Police District chief Police General Pedro Bulaong assured that security arrangement had been properly planned way ahead of the Games.

He said 5,000 uniformed men are to be assigned in the venue.

Champs to race in Marho Breeders' Cup

THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF RACE HORSE Owners (Marho) stages the year's biggest and richest horse racing event, the 10th Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival, starting next Tuesday at the Santa Ana Park.

With the cash pot expected to exceed P8 million, the event features the stars of the local horse racing industry, from the most promising prospects in the juvenile division led by rising track stars Manila's Gem and Juggernaut, to outstanding 3-year-olds like the filly Euro Bucks and the country's most celebrated rivals Empire King and Cover Girl in the Classic.

"Marho is truly proud to stage the 10th renewal of the Breeders' Cup Championships, which showcases the best produce of the local horse breeding industry," said Marho president and Mandaluyong City Rep. Benhur Abalos during the event's launch last Wednesday at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila.

The five Breeders' Cup Championship Races are the Juvenile Colts and the Juvenile Fillies for 2-year-olds, the 3-year-old Colt Mile, the 3-year-old Filly Mile and the Classic for older horses. A sixth championship, the Sprint, has also been scheduled. The six-day festival grossed about P185.7 million last year.

Marho chair Leandro "Sandy" Javier said the Breeders' Cup embodies Marho's commitment to provide an incentive for the breeding and owning of quality home-bred gallopers.

Pacquiao cancels US trip, begins Cebu training

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

MANNY PACQUIAO HAS CANCELLED HIS TRIP to the United States to take part in the promotional caravan for his Jan. 21 rematch with Erik Morales of Mexico.

Pacquiao, who was scheduled to fly to the US with close associate Rex "Wakee" Salud, said he would fly to Cebu tomorrow instead to start his rigid preparation for Morales.

Salud, in an interview, also confirmed the change of plan although he refused to give out details on why the trip was aborted.

"Negative," was Salud's short reply when asked if he and Pacquiao are indeed leaving for the US today.

Once in Cebu, Pacquiao will discuss with Dong Secuya, the man behind the popular websites MannyPacquiao.ph and Philboxing.com, the ways and means to parry a libel suit filed by Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's former business manager.

PACQUIAO: To the rescue of webmaster

Nazario sued Secuya following a series of articles penned by American writer Pedro Fernandez and US-based Winchell Campos, which saw print in the two websites. They cast aspersion on Nazario's credibility in handling Pacquiao's career.

Pacquiao has expressed unequivocal support for Secuya, who is credited for having played a major role in improving Pacquiao's marketability through the two well-read websites.

Secuya was arrested yesterday but immediately posted bail. He has vowed to clear his name.

Harbour . . .

From page A25

"I think, Marcy is becoming used to playing with the big guys," said coach Dindo Pumaren. "We played well defensively but we still have to be more aggressive."

Latonio saved his best for last, firing 11 points in the second half including two triples after he missed his first three three-point attempts.

The scores:

First Game

GRANNY GOOSE 74—Latonio 14, Almeda 12, Grijaldo 11, Santos 10, Quinahan 8, Pribdhas 5, Ibanes 4, Alfad 3, Cruz 3, Laneta 2, Ferrer 2, Cincha 0, Cervantes 0, David 0.

MONTAÑA 59—Compton 20, Juntilla 15, Vergara 7, Espiritu 5, Bono 4, Capus 2, Mercado 2, Guerrero 2, Lustestica 2, Castro 0, Dela Cuesta 0, Tolentino 0.

Quarters: 14-8, 36-26, 54-45, 74-59

Second Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 87—Arellano 16, Yeo 14, Dela Pena 12, Gaco 11, Paterno 10, Reyes 9, Luanzon 5, Alonzo 4, Dy 2, Saguindel 2, Vicente 2, Ballesteros 0.

FAR EASTERN INS 78—Bravo 18, Cruz 14, Marquez 11, Yee 10, Gamboa 10, Latoreno 6, Sierra 3, Coronel 2, Bonus 2, Diaz 0, Delgado 0, Guerrero 0, Epondulan 0, Baluyot 0.

Quarters: 22-10, 42-30, 65-55, 87-78

SPORTSWATCH

Drag race kickoff reset, but gets bigger

AFTER WATCHING ITS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE WASHED OUT BY RAINS, THE 2005 PCSO Philippine National Drag Racing Championship series finally comes off the wraps Nov. 19 at the BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas, with the postponement expected to make the event bigger. Organizers have been using the spare time to fine-tune preparations for the event, which was originally scheduled Oct. 29. "We were disappointed that heavy rains forced us to reset the original launch of the series," said BRC Drag Racing director Fil Guifin. "But on the other hand, it gives us more time to refine the rules of the race." A cash purse of P50,000 awaits the overall PRO class champion in the four-leg series, which is expected to draw entries from Manila, Batangas, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. The event is held in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines, is sponsored by PCSO, Petron and Sparco .

Growee Hoops prov'l tour gets backing

THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) HAS MADE THE provincial basketball tour of Growee Hoops School as one of its sports projects. PCSO gave its support to the basketball clinic as part of its grassroots sports development program to get the Filipino youth involved in sports. The Growee Hoops School, also co-sponsored by Spalding, Accel and Mossimo, kicked off its provincial tour at Brent International School court in Baguio City from Sept. 15-Oct. 2. The clinic drew youngsters from various schools in the Pines City, including Berkeley School, St. Louis University and Brent. The second leg of the basketball clinic was the "Hoops sa Lucena" held from Oct. 8-23 at the Ridgewood Park courts. For inquiries, call 687-4364, 687-2025 or 688-0167. Hoops was founded by former PBL commissioner Charlie Favis and seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks, who designed most of the Hoops drills with Pat Desiderio, a former basketball instructor in New York.

Clean Up stagfest today in Pasay

BIGTIME COCKFIGHTING RETURNS TO THE PASAY CITY COCKPIT TODAY with the staging of the Clean Up 5-Stag Derby featuring more than 70 fights. Heading the list of participants in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 are Tony Lasala, Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, 2005 GCAP Stagfighter awardee Pol Estrellado, PCAP Stagfighter recipients Henry Villarica and Efren Canlas, Magdangal Elma, Lito Orillaza, William Co, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Lito Roque, Joel Fernando, Jingco Brothers, Ramon Mancenares, Joey Lapid and Tony Marfori, among others. For inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 or 843-1746. Slated on Nov. 18 is another 5-stag event with boxing champ Manny Pacquiao as host. Meanwhile, the yearly "Pasko Na Sa Pasay 5-cock derby" is set Dec. 16 and 18, with P1 million at stake. Entry fee is P10,000.

Action Fitness

MAIDEN MAG: Action & Fitness Magazine debuts this month and features National triathlon champ Sandra Araullo and executive athlete Fritz Martinez on the cover. There's a lot more inside. Debunk the common misconceptions about Yoga, and take a fresh look at sport specific training. Discover the hidden treasures of Cagayan de Oro and Camiguin and indulge in guilt-free desserts.

While the Chinese Chuckle

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

NEVER MIND IF THE CHINESE CAN'T HELP but chuckle, despite helping train some of our athletes.

The Southeast Asian Games—bush league by good neighbor China's standards, ditto in Japan and South Korea's books—will unfurl in Manila on Nov. 27..

Close to 6,000 athletes from 11 countries, fringe players in the minds of Asia's sports superpower, will duke it out in sports combat spread over nine days.

The objective is not so much to help propel participants to the next level—the Asian Games, perhaps—but to claim bragging rights to the biennial meet.

Vietnam held that distinction last, winning the overall title of the Games it hosted in 2003.

Vietnam's victory is traceable to the hometown factor—the host country's practice of stacking the Games with events it is likely to win.

Enhanced by hometown advantage, Thailand in 1995, Indonesia in 1997 and Malaysia in 2001, also ended up overall champs.

The Philippines will play host to the Games for the third time since 1981 and 1991.

Fueled by frustrated ambition—it lost the overall title to Indonesia by one lousy gold medal 14 years ago—the Philippines will field athletes best suited to their talents this time around.

Translation: the host is clinging to tradition; it too has inserted more events it can mine for precious metals that will lead to the overall championship. In 2003, Pinoy athletes won 49 golds, 52 silvers and 76 bronzes for a dismal fourth place finish.

We are sending at least 900 athletes into competition against sports armies from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

At stake this year are medal in 441 events, more than the alphabet soup of sports disputed in Hanoi and other Vietnam venues two years ago.

Games organizers have added 53 events, including surefire medal sources for Pinoys such as diving, chess, wushu and lawn ball.

If this move is not a calibrated preemptive response to help us snare the crown, what is?

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez debunks the hometown factor.

He says it is poppycock.

Balderdash.

In a report by INQUIRER sports scribe Marc Anthony Reyes, Ramirez was quoted as saying that our athletes "can hold their own"; they need no hometown nudge to garner first place.

Yeah, right.

Oops!

We mean to say we hope Ramirez is right.

* * *

SPORTS NOTE: Fred Lumba and Clarito Samson are friends from way back. Both were soulmates and occasional drinking buddies during our days in Los Angeles. Never knew what ever happened to them after we moved to Sacramento. Glad to know Fred is now a sports columnist for Malaya. And Cleng, he's currently media chief for the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games. Many thanks to both for helping us blend back into the wonderful world of sports.

Two share lead in Samsung tilt

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—TERENCE MACATANGAY parred the final hole to stay in the lead in a tie with Anthony Fernando after 54 holes of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the treacherous Ayala Greenfield Estates course here.

The 18-year-old Macatangay, the leader in the first two rounds, finished with a 76 while Fernando rallied with a 75 for similar 231 aggregates after three rounds at the windswept layout designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Organizers had to make a slight correction on the scores after discovering an inputting error that showed Macatangay scoring a 78 on the second day and not a 77 which supposedly gave him a two-stroke lead.

It's going to be just a two-man fight in today's final round as the next man in the standings, Benjie Sarmiento, was 10 shots behind at 241 after a 77 while Jong Laput slid one notch to fourth from third when he skied to an 83 for 243.

The tourney is also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Today's winner will join early qualifiers Boyet Saragoza, Erwin Vinluan, Mike Bibat and Tonton Asistio in next year's finals slated next at another brand-new course, the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

Meanwhile, Resty Ramirez and Jose Enriquez topped men's Class C and Class D of the multi-division 36-hole competition.

Ramirez rallied with a 90 for 184 and a three-shot victory over Elmer Geconcillo (95-187), Joel Agbanlog (97-187), Carlos Ong (96-187) and Tomohiro Sakamoto (96-187) while Enriquez watched Raymond Balila collapse with a double bogey on the last hole to win by one.

Enriquez made par for a 100 and 201 total while Balila had a 101 for 202.

Guba destroys Abadia; De Dios notches upset

TIERRO

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE'S YANNICK GUBA shocked No. 5 seed and veteran Davis Cupper Adelo Abadia, 6-4, 7-5, in the 1st day of the Subic Bay Invitational at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center.

Guba, a La Salle University scholar-athlete who spent his summer training in Subic Bay, came back to win both sets after trailing, 1-4, in the first and 3-5 in the second.

In another shocker, Nico Riego De Dios, also a product of Subic Bay tennis program, overcame No. 7 seed Alex Lazaro, 1-6, 6-3, 6-1.

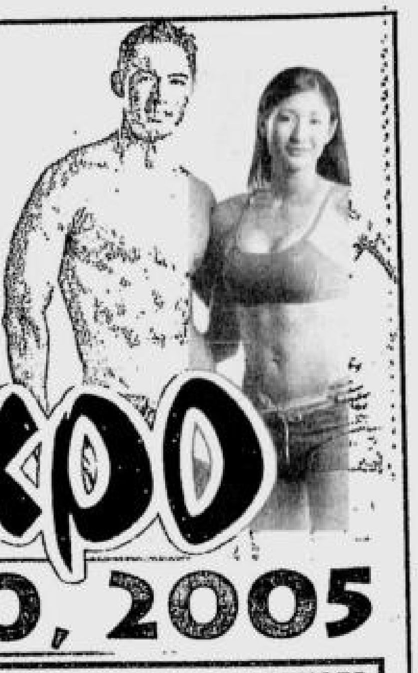
Top seed PJ Tierro crushed Leyan Moncera, 6-0, 6-0, while No. 2 Johnny Arcilla also escaped the spate of giant-killings with a 6-2, 6-2 demolition of Rocky Pagalunan. The two led the winners' march to the quarterfinals.

In other matches, RP Junior Davis Cuppers Pablo Olivarez II and Ralph Barte also fell victim to the upset ax in this SEA Games preparatory event presented by Cebuana Lhuillier and LeSoleil de Boracay Hotel and supported by Philta, Dunlop-Slazenger and SBMA.

Olivarez lost in three sets to Chiemil Mantua, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. Barte fell to Elbert Anasta, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Ageless No. 8 seed Jesse Lapore also advanced to the quarters by ousting 19-year-old Lorenzo Sison, 6-0, 6-0. No. 3 seed Rolando Ruel beat qualifier Ryan Daza, 6-2 6-0.

"These are the best matches I have seen assembled in recent years where our next generation is showing great results," said Beeyong Sison, the tournament director.



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AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Filipino basketball fans,

The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) is determined to lay the foundations of a strong basketball future for the country. This objective of the POC leadership must not be compromised even at the cost of our only remaining international title, the Southeast Asian Games championship. We call on all our basketball loving countrymen to swallow the bitter pill now with us for the virtue of long term gains.

That 32 of the total of 38 heads of national sports associations, plus the International Olympic Committee's representative to the Philippines, Mr. Frank Elizalde, stood their ground on June 30, 2005 to expel the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) was an act that squarely addressed the high crimes committed by BAP against the interest of Filipino basketball fans.

BAP displayed deplorable leadership and utter insensitivity to the passion of the Filipino basketball fan. We all have been forced to pay the costly price for the misconduct of BAP and its pseudo officials.

Our hearts all bled when the Philippines failed to qualify for the Asian championships two years ago. The Philippines finished 15th or second to the last in Harbin, China. Subsequently, we absorbed another severe beating in the Jones Cup in Taipei, winding up 8th of nine with losses averaging 21.4 points. Amidst all these BAP wanted us to believe that this was no cause for alarm.

The BAP also entered the prestigious Stankovic Cup last year carrying our national colors. The result was even more devastating. The Filipinos lost to Japan by 60 points, to Qatar by 52, to Syria by 31 and by 22 to Kuwait. In the darkest chapter of Philippine basketball, the BAP-dispatched teams came home like headless chickens with no single win to their credit.

While there is no justification for these setbacks acceptable to the Filipino fans, BAP pursued its wicked ways. At the tail end of this horror theater, the BAP-assembled national team bowed to a squad of no known origin in a minor league in Metro Manila. Around 80 million Filipinos from north to south raised a violent howl.

National patience had been stretched to the limit so the POC called for a basketball summit involving the major stakeholders. They all agreed that major reforms are in order. At the end of that summit, the BAP agreed to work with the stakeholders, including the professional league, PBA. Stung by this, BAP issued a resolution signed by its officers recognizing the wisdom behind the summit and expressing full support to the POC and the stakeholders.

A few days after, however, BAP violated itself. BAP insisted on the same team and coach that turned our country into the laughing stock of the Asian region. When reminded of the agreements in the summit, BAP invoked autonomy to cover for the fiendish character of the association.

Offended by the sudden, inexplicable, unjustifiable act of the BAP, the POC slapped the BAP with an indefinite suspension on May 25, 2005.

Strangely, however, the suspension emboldened the BAP. The association resorted to badmouthing the POC with preposterous claims deviant from the clear and purposeful conduct of the basketball summit with the stakeholders.

POC then said enough is enough.

To arrest this belittling downhill run, we the undersigned, decided to refer the dilemma of Philippine basketball to the sport's international federation, FIBA, in September. This mission was to seek a long-term, lasting solution to our basketball problems.

In a brief but meaningful meeting with FIBA, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated September 29, 2005 was signed between the FIBA and POC setting in clear terms the direction that Philippine basketball should take for it to return on track and redeem the full confidence of the international federation.

This MoU provides the mechanics, composition and time frame within which, through the initiative of the POC, a new basketball federation should be formed to eventually obtain the recognition of the FIBA.

The MoU is the one big break we all had been waiting for. It gives us the chance to dream again not only of regional championships but making a long-delayed return to the glorious Olympic arena after more than 30 years.

We share the pain and disappointment of not seeing our nationals triumph before their own home crowd during the SEA Games. This pain, however, should be eased if we embrace the prospects of the future. Let us all push Philippine basketball to the limits to determine whether we Filipinos, still have the heart of a champion.

Jose Cojuangco Jr
President
Philippine Olympic Committee

Robert Aventajado
Chairman
Philippine Olympic Committee

Steve Hontiveros
Secretary-General
Philippine Olympic Committee

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cavaliers silence SuperSonics

NEW YORK—LEBRON JAMES POURED IN A GAME-HIGH 31 points, including 11-of-11 from the free-throw line, as the Cleveland Cavaliers rolled to a 112-85 win over the Seattle SuperSonics on Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena.

Larry Hughes contributed 13 points to the Cleveland cause while Donyell Marshall had 13 points and nine rebounds as Cavaliers won for the third time in five games this season.

The Cavaliers were helped by a near-perfect night from the free-throw line, making a franchise-record 28 consecutive attempts before their first miss.

Ray Allen nailed 28 points for the SuperSonics in a losing effort while Ronald Murray had 15.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson hit a game-high 25 points and Andre Iguodala added 22 points, seven rebounds and five assists to guide the 76ers to a 112-97 win over the Dallas Mavericks.

Kyle Korver drained 20 points and Chris Webber chipped in with 19 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers, who registered their second consecutive win after opening the season with three losses.

In Indianapolis, Ron Artest scored 24 points and Jermaine O'Neal added 17 and grabbed eight rebounds to help the Pacers to a 95-90 win over the Miami Heat.

Dwyane Wade scored 29 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out six assists for the Heat, who continue to play without injured Shaquille O'Neal.

In East Rutherford, Vince Carter had a game-high 21 points and Nenad Krstic contributed 18 points and six rebounds as the New Jersey Nets eased past the Utah Jazz 91-83.

Andrei Kirilenko paced the Jazz with 18 points.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 17 points and pulled down 15 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves dumped the Los Angeles Lakers 88-74.

Kobe Bryant paced the Lakers with 28 points.

In Washington, Elton Brand scored 31 points and snared 13 rebounds as the Los Angeles Clippers edged the Wizards 102-97, handing Washington their first loss of the season.

In Boston, Ricky Davis hit the game-winning jumper as time expired and Paul Pierce had a game-high 29 points, guiding the Celtics past the Memphis Grizzlies 99-98.

In Charlotte, Tim Duncan scored 29 points and snared 10 rebounds while Tony Parker chipped in with 23 points and dished out six assists, sparking the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs to a 94-86 win over the Bobcats.

In Oklahoma City, Steve Francis had 24 points and snared eight rebounds as the Orlando Magic downed the New Orleans Hornets 88-83.

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich had a game-high 23 points and Michael Sweetney hit a pair of clutch free throws with less than seven seconds to play to lift the Bulls to an 85-84 win over the Golden State Warriors. *Reuters*

THE HOUSTON ROCKETS TRAVEL East as they take on the Miami Heat in the NBA today at 9 a.m. (replay at 9 p.m.) on STAR Sports. Meanwhile, The Phoenix Suns host the Detroit Pistons at the America West Arena. Solar Sports will telecast the game starting at 11:30 a.m.

ORLANDO Magic's DeShawn Stevenson (right) goes up for a shot against New Orleans Hornets' Chris Andersen. Orlando won, 88-83. AP

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China says US, Russia impossible to overtake

BEIJING—CHINA, HOSTS OF THE next Summer Olympics, said on Thursday it would be impossible to overtake the medal hauls of the United States and Russia, not just in 2008 but for the foreseeable future.

Cui Dalin, China's deputy sports minister, played down prospects of a huge medals haul for the hosts at a news conference on the eve of celebrations to mark 1,000 days until the opening of the Beijing Olympics.

"Not only in 2008 but beyond, it's impossible to overtake the US and Russian teams," he said.

He pointed out that though China had collected its best ever tally of 63 medals last year in Athens, the US had won 103.

"Elite sport in the US is very strong," he said. "They are an elite power. The difference is obvious.

China finished second to the US in the medals table in Athens, causing a number of surprises in sports where they had never been considered strong and edging traditional power Russia into third place in the medals table.

But Cui said though China won 32 gold medals to Russia's 29, the Russians had collected 92 medals overall and were still a stronger team.

"Finishing ahead of Russia was a happy coincidence," he said. "There were six team sports in which China and Russia were in the final and, fortunately, China won all six.

Cui said he placed China on the same level as the second tier of sporting nations made up of Australia, Japan, Germany and France.

Though the US topped the medals table in Athens with 35 golds, the fact that China finished just three behind prompted widespread speculation in the sporting world that the Chinese would easily dominate the Beijing Games four years later.

Chinese officials have been busy playing down such speculation ever since.

Cui said China's goal was to improve on its Athens medal tally but he considered that to be a great challenge.

"Our all-round strength is still not so high," he said.

"There are some sports in which we are still relatively weak like athletics, swimming, rowing, sailing and canoeing and we don't do very well in ball games like basketball, soccer and volleyball." *Reuters*

Mauresmo tr
Pierce notch

LOS ANGELES—AMELIE MAURESMO defeated US Open champion Kim Clijsters, 6-3, 7-6 (4), in the WTA Championships on Wednesday night, jeopardizing the Belgian's chances of making the semifinals and challenging Lindsay Davenport for the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Clijsters, a two-time winner of the season-ending tournament, lost her opening match in three sets to Mary Pierce, giving her an 0-2 record in round-robin play with one match remaining.

Davenport owns a 155-point lead over No. 2 Clijsters in the rankings, and whoever has the best showing this week will end the year in the top spot.

Clijsters gets Thursday off and will try to qualify for the semifinals in her last round-robin match Friday.

Mauresmo beat Clijsters for the first time since the
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Clijsters foug
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Who needs

I AM TAKING UMBRAGE at the belligerent attitude of the Fiba toward millions of basketball-loving Filipinos and its continuous bias against the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Methinks it's time to break our ties with misguided International Basketball Federation (Fiba) secretary general Patrick Baumann, who has been listening only to the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines and not to the POC. If Baumann does not care for us, why should we bother to care for him?

As Mexico-based reader Honorio Ybera Jr. once asked: "Why are we insisting on a sport that promises us nothing?"

We should stop our obsession with basketball. Too much basketball has virtually "killed" the promotion and development of the other sports in the country so much so that we no longer has outstanding athletes in track and field, tennis, swimming, baseball, soccer, etc.

In the Philippines, it's basketball all year round. This is also true in Mexico where soccer is the No. 1 sport. Said Ybera: "Mexicans love the country. But the Mexicans' fanaticism about soccer can be rationalized. Mexico is one of the top nations in the world that plays the game."

However, this is not the case in the Philippines despite our love for basketball. For example the superstars of the Philippine Basketball Association could not even make the country the king of Asian basketball

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tiger stalks leaders with 7-under 65

WOODS one behind. AP

SHANGHAI—BRITONS Nick Dougherty and Paul Lawrie fired eight-under-par 64s to lead Tiger Woods by a stroke after the first round of the Champions Tournament on Thursday.

Australian Mark O'Malley was also at eight-under, as was world number one Woods until he found a sand trap and bogeyed his final hole to drop to a four-way tie for fourth at the $5 million event in Shanghai.

O'Malley made seven birdies in a row from 16 while Dougherty capped a blemish-free round with an eagle on 18 to tie his best tournament score.

Former British Open champion Lawrie, who only received an invitation for the tournament last week, birdied the 18th hole despite a violent cloudburst to send the Scot into a tie for the lead.

Dougherty won his first title at the Singapore Masters in January and the Nick Faldo protege sounded a warning to his idol Woods after his sizzling round in Shanghai.

"It would be a dream scenario to have a crack at him on Sunday," said the 23-year-old. "It would be fantastic. I would love it. I idolize Tiger. He's everything I want to be."

Woods was joined on seven-under by Britain's David Howell, South Korean K.J. Choi and Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen.

Playing in his first official tournament in China, Woods carded 10 birdies but was left shaking his head when his tee shot on the par-four ninth—his final hole—plugged in a sand trap.

"I've never seen anything like it," said the 10-time major winner, who failed to save par after his bunker shot spun off the green.

"It was unbelievable. I hit a three wood into the middle of the bunker and buried it. That's not something I'm used to seeing—not off the tee."

US Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand carded a 66 while world number two Vijay Singh of Fiji had a 67.

European number one Colin Montgomerie suffered a frustrating start playing alongside Woods, shooting a two-over-par 74.

The event, Asia's richest ever, is cosanctioned by the Asian Tour, the PGA Tour of Australia, the South African Sunshine Tour and is the official start to the 2006 European Tour. *Reuters*

rips Clijsters;
es 500th win

CLIJSTERS lunges for a forehand return. REUTERS

2002 US Open af-
of three games in
meetings. Mau-
t the Belgian.
t off two match
rve at 5-4. She
o in the next
ld for a 6-5 lead
on Mauresmo's backhand error.

Clijsters owns a WTA Tour-leading nine titles this year after coming back from wrist surgery. Ranked 134th as recently as March, her 66 match wins are the most of any player this year.

Pierce earned her 500th career win, defeating Elena Dementieva of Russia 6-2, 6-3 to lead the Black group with a 2-0 record.

Davenport defeated Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-3, 7-5 to move atop her group with a 2-0 record after not making it out of round-robin play last year.

Schnyder fell to 0-2, and has yet to win a match in three appearances at the championships.

In the Green group, Davenport is 2-0, Sharapova is 1-0, Nadia Petrova of Russia is 0-1 and Schnyder is 0-2. In the Black group, Pierce is 2-0, Mauresmo is 1-0, Dementieva is 0-1 and Clijsters is 0-2. *AP*

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4	CRY WOLF		R-13

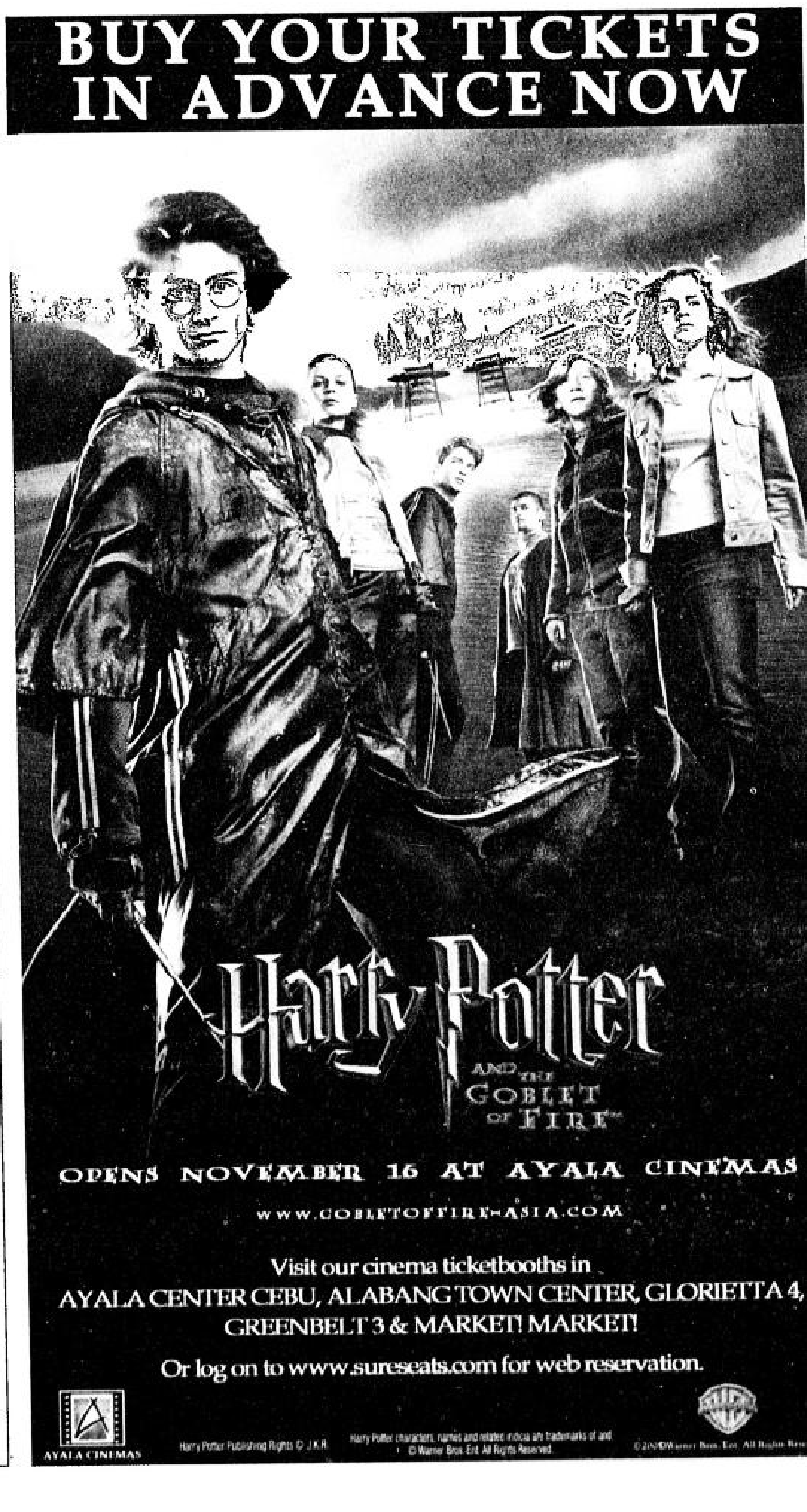
s the Fiba?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

The players' professional tag is even a misnomer because they would be looking like fumbling oafs against many amateur teams in the world, particularly those from the United States. To say that basketball is like a plate of rice in a Filipino meal is embracing the wrong logic. We should accept the fact that basketball is not the sport for the Filipinos. We have no chance in it. What we should do is to concentrate more in sports where height is not an advantage like boxing, taekwondo, archery, billiards, bowling, chess, golf and soccer, where the country can excel better because the ball is on the ground.

Even though the Philippines won third place in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro in 1954, cynics say the RP team could not have been third had the Soviet Union and Argentina participated then. In the next world championship in 1959 (Valparaiso, Chile) and 1974 (San Juan, Puerto Rico) when the field was stronger, the Philippines could only finish eighth and 13th, respectively.



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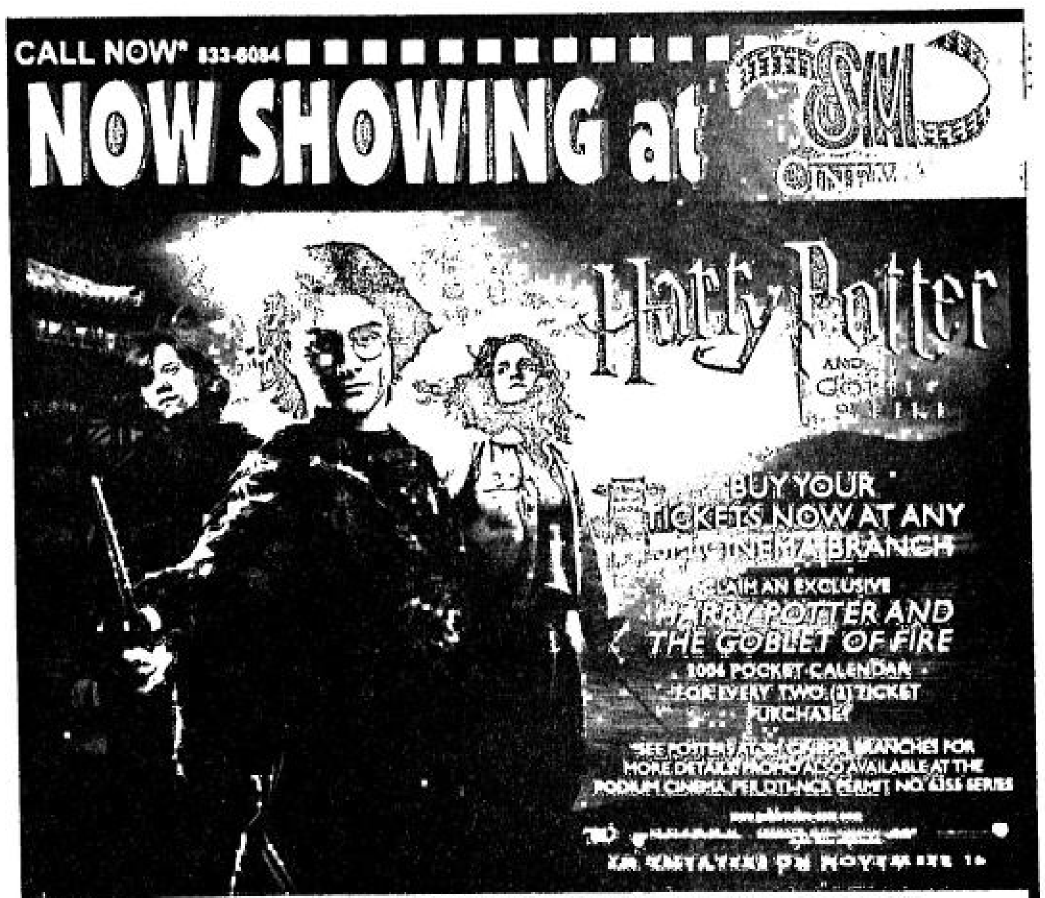

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9 ISPIRITISTA
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11 DOOM
12 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

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2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 CRY WOLF
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6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 WAITING
9 THE GHOST INSIDE
10 DOMINO

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9 DOOM
10 DUBAI
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12 WAITING

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6 DOMINO
7 FOUR BROHTERS
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FOUR BROTHERS
3 WAITING
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
DOMINO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
ISPIRITISTA
DOOM
MY SASSY GIRL
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 THE GHOST INSIDE
CRY WOLF

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DOOM
5 ISPIRITISTA
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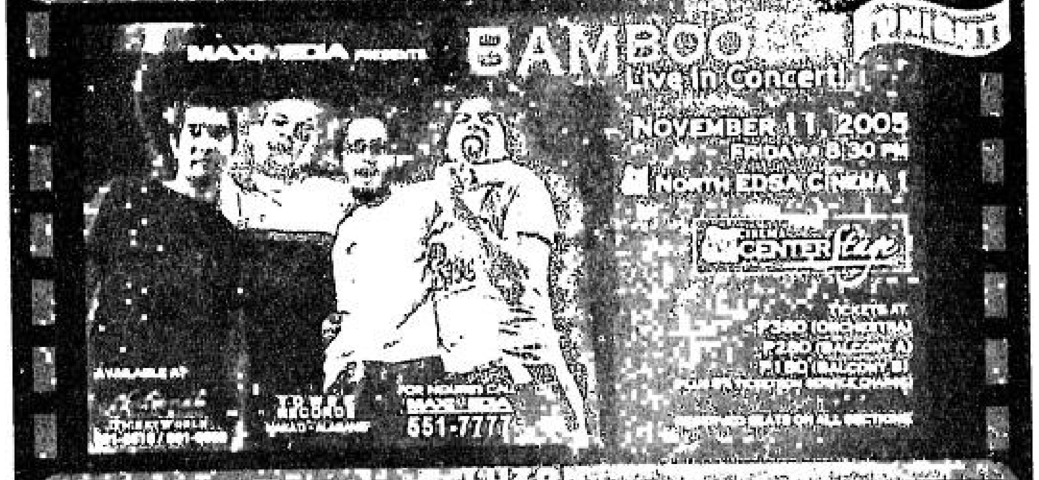

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6 ISPIRITISTA

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1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 FLIGTHPLAN

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
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4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
THE GHOST INSIDE
9 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
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ISPIRITISTA
FLIGHTPLAN

SM CITY LUCENA
FLIGHTPLAN
LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 DOOM
ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
INTO THE BLUE
ISPIRITISTA
FLIGHTPLAN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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SM CITY CEBU
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 RESERVED
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 RESERVED
8 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

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FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
6 DOOM

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3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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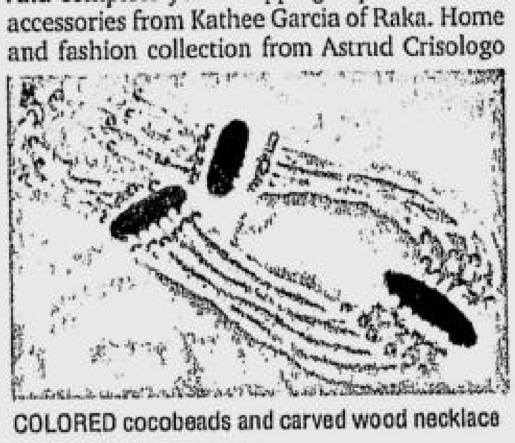

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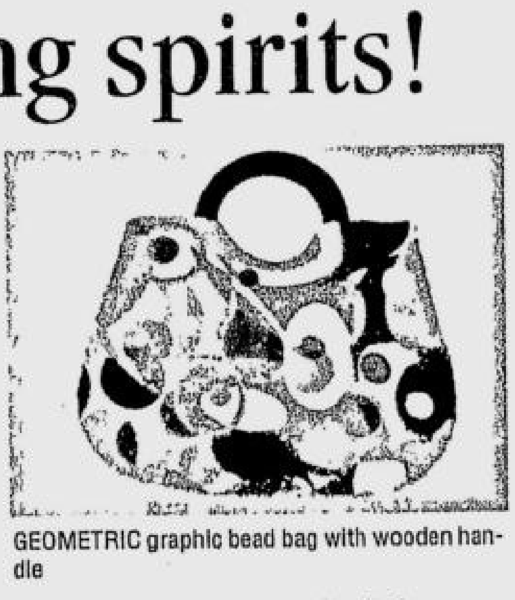

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 CRY WOLF	2 FLIGHTPLAN	3 LEGEND OF ZORRO	4 ISPIRITISTA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 WAITING	2 FLIGHTPLAN	3 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 ISPIRITISTA	5 CRY WOLF	6 LEGEND OF ZORRO	7 FOUR BROTHERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 FLIGHTPLAN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WAITING GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 FOUR BROTHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LEGEND OF ZORRO GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FLIGHTPLAN	2 LEGEND OF ZORRO		
	3 WAITING	4 CRY WOLF	5 FOUR BROTHERS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 FLIGHTPLAN	2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	3 UNDISCOVERED	4 MY SASSY GIRL

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① FLIGHTPLAN
② CRYWOLF
③ WAITING
④ LEGEND OF ZORRO
⑤ ISPIRITISTA

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GALLERIA

632-9116

1 FOUR BROTHERS• THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 ILUSYON
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

5 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 WAITING
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 DOMINO
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 CRY_WOLF
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:00

10 ISPIRITISTA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 FLIGHTPLAN 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
12:35 2:50 5.05 7:25 9:50

3 DOMINO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 CRY_WOLF
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 ISPIRITISTA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

7 WAITING 12:00 1:40 3:20
ILUSYON 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FOUR BROTHERS
12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00

2 ISPIRITISTA
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 WAITING
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 DOMINO
12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05

5 CRY_WOLF
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:40 3:20 6:00 9:00

7 FLIGHTPLAN
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 ILUSYON
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES

935-3731 / 935-3229-30

1 DOOM
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 WAITING

CITISQUARE MALABON

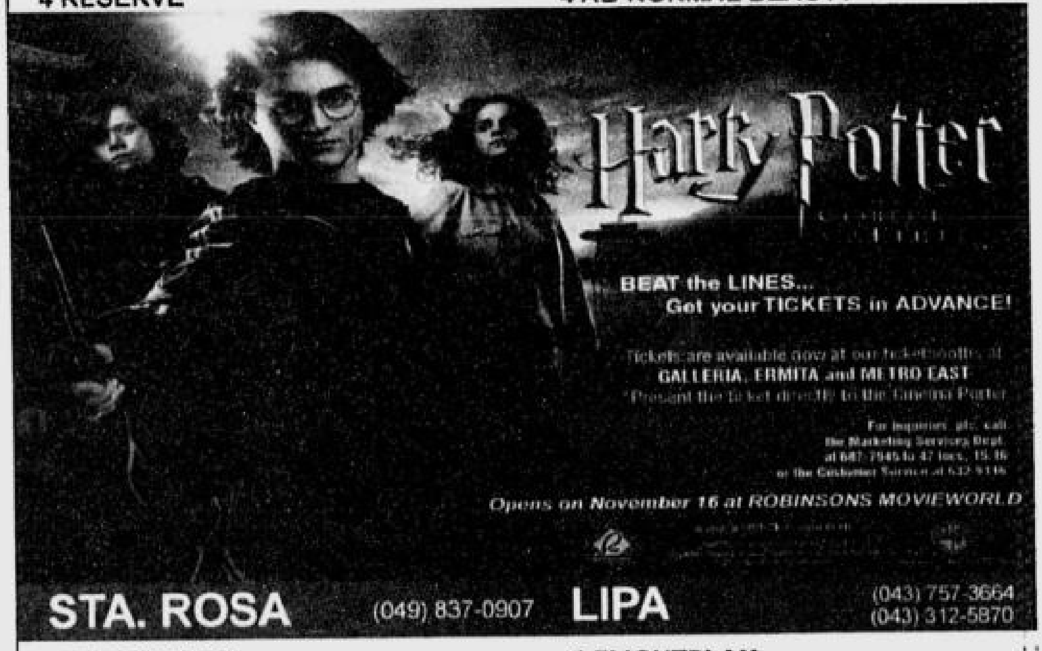
288-2575

1 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

687-5378

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
3 CRY_WOLF
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY



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1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

LIPA

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(043) 312-5870

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 INTO THE BLUE

DASMARIÑAS

(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 ISPIRITISTA

ANGELES

(045) 892-2348

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

IMUS

(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-6188

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 ISPIRITISTA

STARMILLS

(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0450

1 DOOM
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 MASAHISTA

ILOILO

(033) 336-8070

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 DOOM

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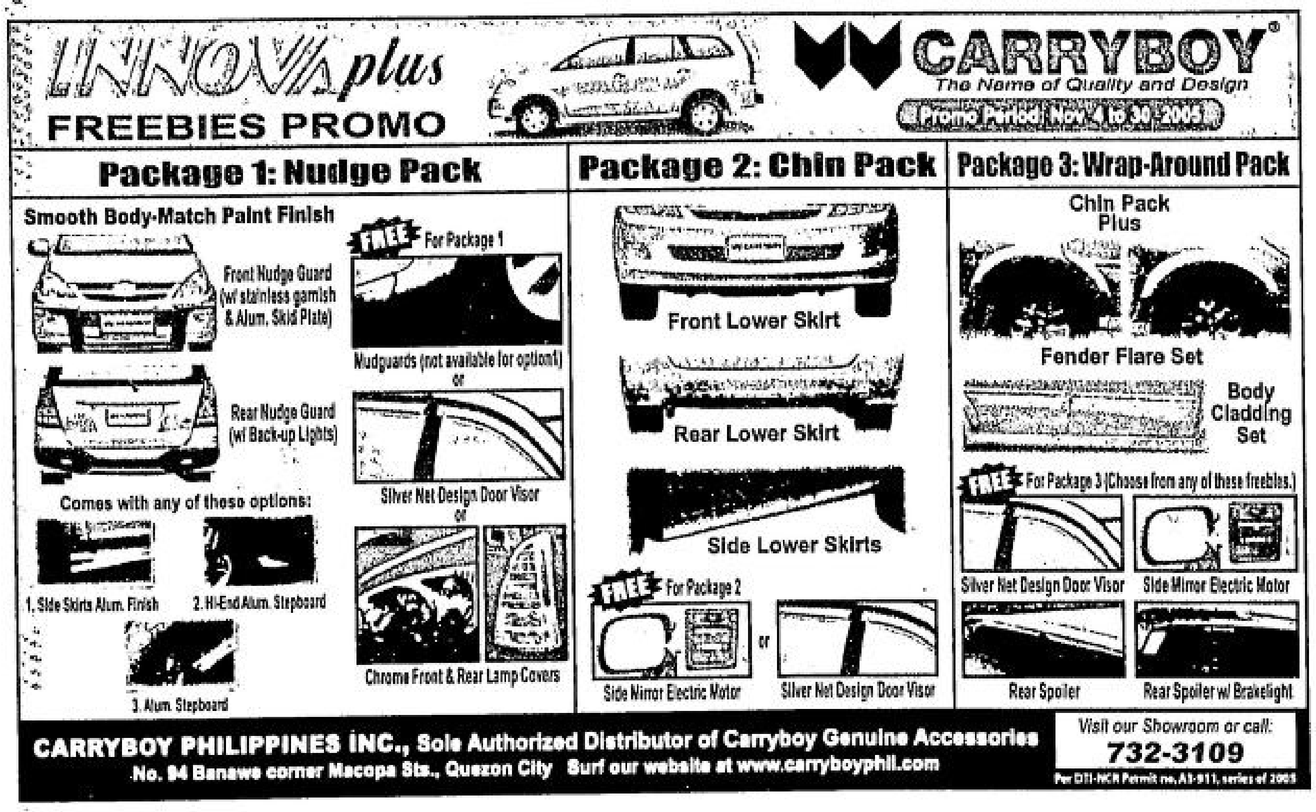
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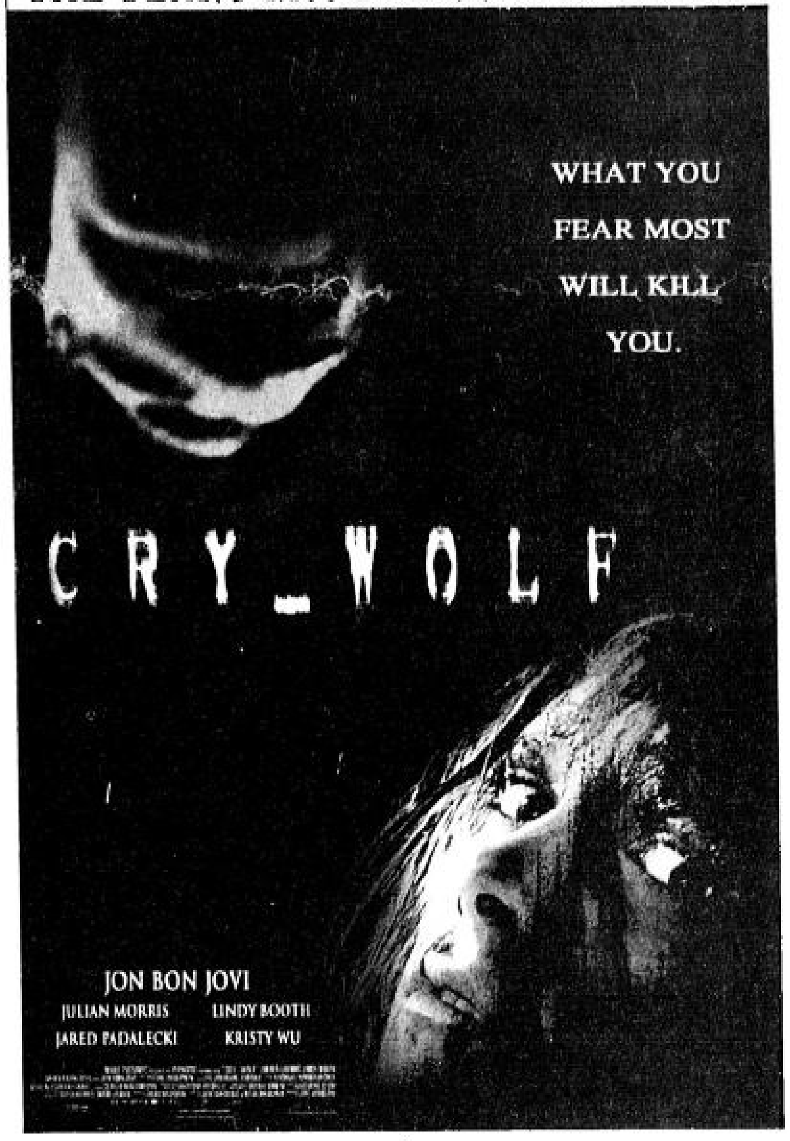
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THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:50,4:10,6:30,8:50	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 12:15,2:35,4:55,7:15,9:35
FOUR BROTHERS R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	CRY WOLF PG3 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00,10:20

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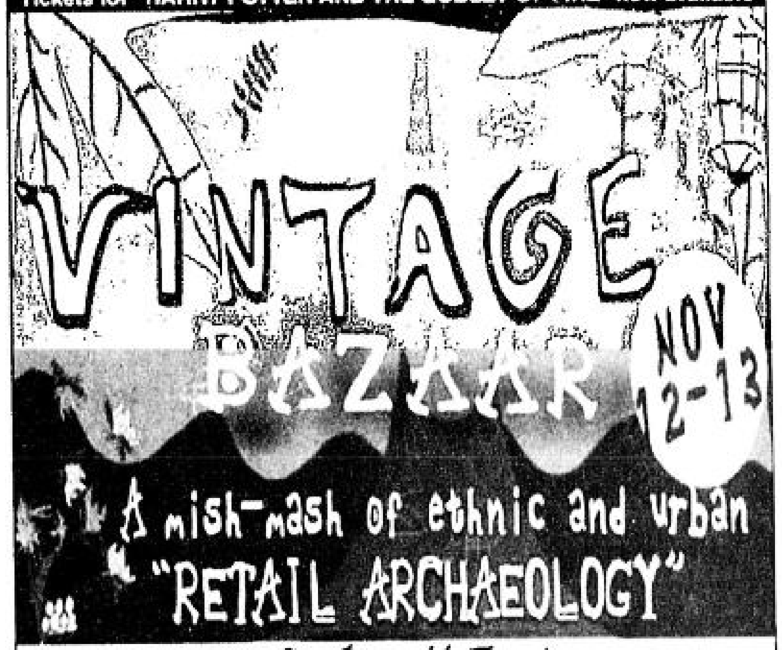
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11:00, 1:45, 4:30
7:15, 10:00

CINEMA 2 WAITING
R13
11:35, 1:45, 3:55,
6:05, 8:15, 10:25

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CINEMA 3 CRY WOLF
R13
10:35, 12:10, 2:35,
5:00, 7:25, 10:00

CINEMA 4 FLIGHT PLAN
PG13
11:30, 1:40, 3:55,
6:10, 8:25, 10:40

CINEMA 5 FLIGHT PLAN
PG13
10:40, 12:50, 3:05,
5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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MTRCB: PG-13

② CRY WOLF
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
MTRCB: PG-13

③ FOUR BROTHERS
1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
MTRCB: R-13

④ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
MTRCB. GP

PREMIERE THEATRE FLIGHTPLAN
12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20 MTRCB. PG-13
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6017, Series of 2005

CESAR M
IANA PALERMO

NUMBER ONE. Showing off the medal he won in Brussels. Pinoys turned out in full force, Cesar said. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cesar's next goal: Oscars

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I WAS JUST WAITING FOR A call from the FAP to submit my work, but no one called. It's sad that we missed one opportunity to promote ourselves."

Actor-director Cesar Montano was reacting to the country's failure to send an entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 78th Academy Awards in Hollywood. A record 58 countries from four continents, including Tajikistan, Costa Rica, Fiji and Iraq, fielded entries.

Observers say his movie, "Panaghoy sa Suba," could have been submitted by the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) as official entry.

Cesar bagged the Best Director and Best Picture trophies in the recently concluded International Festival of Independent Films in Brussels, Belgium, for "Panaghoy."

The film, which also stars Juliana Palermo, was directed and produced by Cesar under his own CM Films.

Cesar said he personally spoke with Sid Ganis, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Ampas), in Brussels. Ampas is the body in charge of choosing entries to the Best Foreign Language category.

"Sid and I plan to produce a movie together. I told him that my next objective was to make a film to represent the Philippines in the Oscars," Cesar told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Cesar said he was overwhelmed by the reception that his movie received in Brussles. "The screening last Nov. 4 was very well-attended. The theater was jam-packed. Many had driven more than five hours just to watch the movie."

He added with amusement: "The Belgian staff members, most of whom were women, were caught off-guard by all the pushing and shoving. One woman bit someone who pushed her. People told me it was as like a rock concert crowd."

Cesar said Filipinos working in Europe also went out of their way to show him support. "We couldn't let everyone inside the theater. I felt sorry for those who were made to stay outside, in the cold. What I did was, as soon as the screening started, I stepped out of the theater and talked with them."

Accepting his trophies, Cesar said: "I hope this will encourage and motivate independent filmmakers to make more movies."

> 'I hope this will encourage independent filmmakers to make more movies'

Martha Daniels charms Mikey

By Nini Valera

MIKEY ARROYO, PRESIDENTIAL son and Pampanga 2nd district representative on leave, strayed into the press conference of sexy starlet Martha Daniels on Tuesday at Mario's Restaurant in Quezon City.

An occasional movie actor, Mikey was on his way to another function room of the restaurant for a non-show biz meeting when he saw Martha.

He introduced himself to her and, within this writer's earshot, said: "I have no girlfriend. Can I apply?" Before leaving, he asked for Martha's cell phone number.

MARTHA and Mikey Arroyo

Interludes like these have gotten Martha mileage in tabloid gossip columns. She has been reported pregnant and the guy supposedly responsible is actor Carlos Morales.

Ironically, Martha's only claim to fame is a bit role in Mark Meily's "La Visa Loca"—and most of it was reportedly edited out. She was also dropped from the roster of this year's contestants in the Miss Philippines competition, after pageant organizers found out that she had bared her body in the movies.

She appeared to be flattered by Mikey's attention, but asked, "Isn't he happily married?"

The press con was called to announce Martha's endorsement of a skin whitening product, and to break her silence on the Carlos Morales affair. Martha brandished results of a pregnancy test that proved she… was not!

"I had to show people I wasn't not lying," Martha told INQUIRER Entertainment during a one-on-one. "If I were pregnant, I would be happy because a child is a blessing from God. What I don't understand is why people would spread [those] rumors when they don't know anything about me."

DID YOU KNOW… "DEEP BLUE," A FEATURE-length selection of highlights from the BBC documentary series, "The Blue Planet," is being screened exclusively at the Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2 until Nov. 15. It launched "Savour Nature '05," a month-long campaign on environmental awareness.

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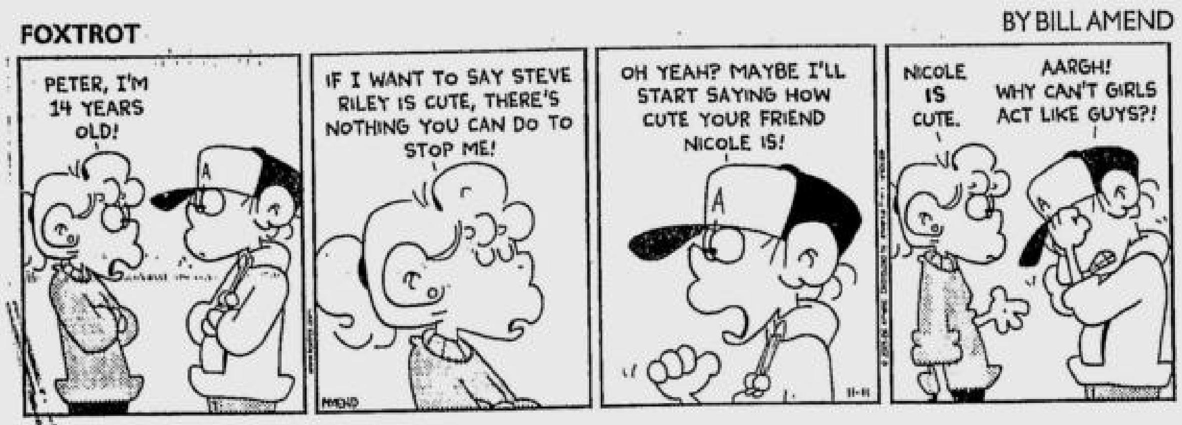
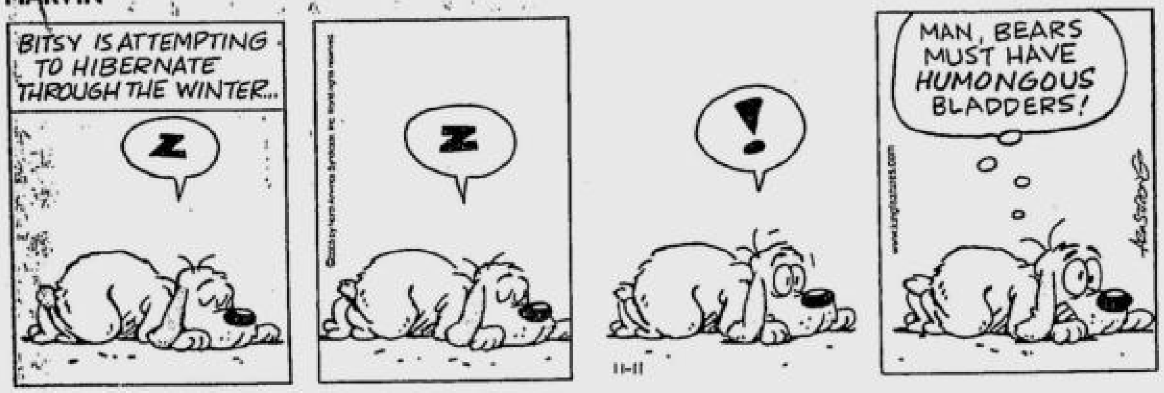
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, I'M 14 YEARS OLD!
IF I WANT TO SAY STEVE RILEY IS CUTE, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
OH YEAH? MAYBE I'LL START SAYING HOW CUTE YOUR FRIEND NICOLE IS!
NICOLE IS CUTE.
AARGH! WHY CAN'T GIRLS ACT LIKE GUYS?!
11-11

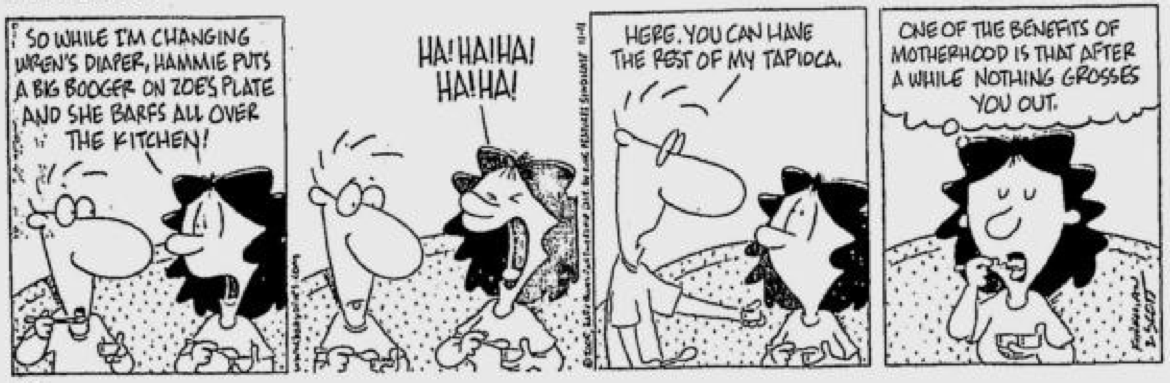
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BITSY IS ATTEMPTING TO HIBERNATE THROUGH THE WINTER...
Z
Z
!
MAN, BEARS MUST HAVE HUMONGOUS BLADDERS!
11-11

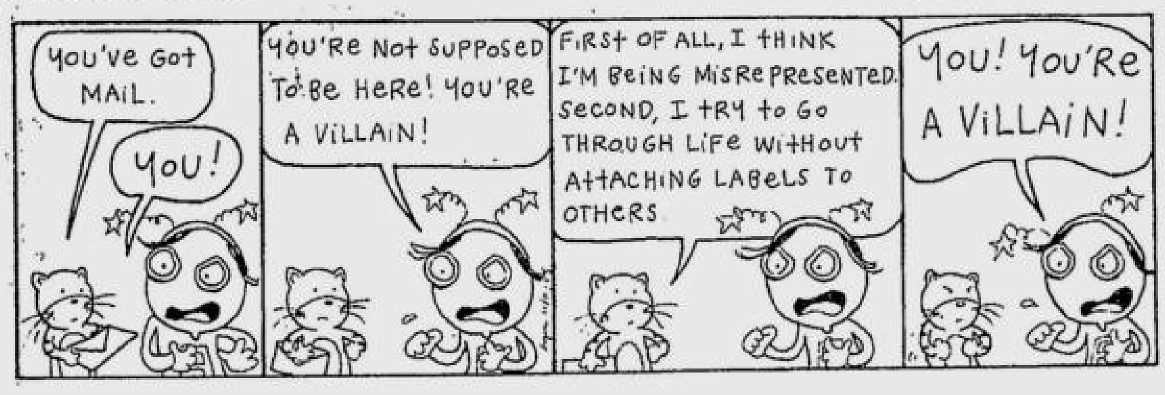
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO WHILE I'M CHANGING WREN'S DIAPER, HAMMIE PUTS A BIG BOOGER ON ZOE'S PLATE AND SHE BARFS ALL OVER THE KITCHEN!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HERE. YOU CAN HAVE THE REST OF MY TAPIOCA.
ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF MOTHERHOOD IS THAT AFTER A WHILE NOTHING GROSSES YOU OUT.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You've Got MAIL.
You!
You're Not Supposed To Be Here! You're A ViLLAIN!
FiRST OF ALL, I THINK I'M BeiNG MiSRePReSeNTeD. SeCOND, I TRY to Go THROUGH LiFe WiTHout ATTACHING LABELS TO OTHERS
You! You're A ViLLAiN!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Even if you're not the best at what you do, for some reason, everyone listens to you. You're highly persuasive! Others love your colorful energy. Not only are you magnetic, but you're organized. You always look like you know what you're doing. The year ahead focuses on your closest partnerships and relationships.
Birthdate of: Kurt Vonnegut Jr., author; Leonardo DiCaprio, actor; Demi Moore, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Make no assumptions about anything today. Delays and shortages are likely. Even though you have strong opinions about something today, say nothing. (By tomorrow things will look different.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's hard to know what friends or groups are going to do today. Don't think you can second-guess them. The problem is—you don't have the full picture.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a poor day to present your ideas to a boss, a parent, a teacher or any authority figure in your life. Things are a bit too loosey-goosey. Wait until tomorrow to act.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're broadminded and tolerant today. You're open to new ideas that might even conflict with your own beliefs. (It's OK to have an open mind; just make sure everything else doesn't fall out.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a poor day to divide things or decide how something should be shared. Whatever you decide today will need to be amended tomorrow—keep that in mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a poor day to agree to anything important or to make any major decisions with partners and close friends. Just tell others you want to give things a sober second thought. (Wait until tomorrow.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Expect shortages and delays at work today. Quite likely staff shortages will occur as well. Avoid major decisions. Just go with the flow as best you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a highly creative day. Your thinking is entirely out-of-the-box. This is wonderful for creative projects; however, don't spend money.

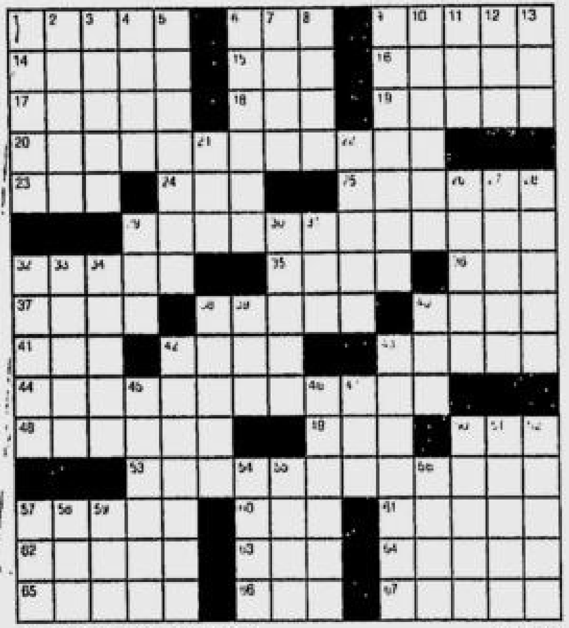
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a poor day for shopping or making major decisions. However, it's a good day to have fun and do artistic things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a bad day to sign contracts or conduct important negotiations. You cannot rely on things. Everything is a bit nebulous. Wait until tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an extremely poor day for business and commerce. Try to delay whatever business you can until tomorrow or Monday. Things are too inefficient and confusing now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a goofy day. In one way, it's fine because the Moon is in your sign. However, details are confusing. Don't initiate things today. Don't spend money.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
11/11/05

ACROSS
1 Put to flight
6 Pen mate
9 Topper's friend
14 "The Taming of the Shrew" city
15 "Ben-__"
16 Paramour
17 Natural soothers
18 Smelter feed
19 Country south of the Alps
20 Southern wetlands
23 Dept. phone number
24 What'd I tell ya?
25 Freeload
29 Grilling spot?
32 Wet behind the ears
35 Be too kind
36 Trail persistently
37 Kind of model
38 Phony
40 Peruvian city
41 Grow mellower
42 Become crusty
43 Chef's gizmo
44 Horatio Alger, for example
48 Flower droppings
49 Hubbub
50 Grate stuff
53 Fair weather feature
57 Volkswagen model
60 Draw
61 Suddenly appear
62 "My Cherie __"
63 Dancer Miller
64 Taxpayer's option
65 Shot in the dark
66 __ up (excited)
67 Book displays

DOWN
1 Parking spot
2 Flower sepals
3 Take up
4 One who's sorry now.
5 Inserts gradually
6 Preferred
7 Sharing pronoun
8 Concoct
9 Fleeting view
10 Meat-and-vegetable stew
11 Forum eggs
12 Remote ctrl. button
13 Sample
21 Agree upon
22 VIP helpers
26 Rock bottom
27 Folklore creature
28 Painter Degas
29 Like a little Scotsman
30 Peripheries
31 Old French coin
32 Understand
33 Knave
34 Put into office
38 Operatic singer
39 Signs off on
40 Deposit
42 Basements
43 Flourish
45 Prickly plant
46 Kind of scout
47 Poetic tribute
50 Savory jelly
51 Creep about
52 Overdoes the publicity
54 Cedar Breaks location
55 Have supper
56 Nap locale
57 Toothlike projection
58 Grounded Aussie bird
59 Low digit

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

N	E	R	D	S	■	S	H	A	W	■	H	E	M	P
U	S	E	U	P	■	P	U	S	H	■	A	R	I	A
M	A	I	N	E	■	E	L	S	A	■	R	E	G	S
B	U	D	G	E	T	C	A	N	T	B	E	C	U	T
■	■	■	■	D	A	S	■	■	S	U	M	T	E	R
O	D	D	J	O	B	■	J	I	N	X	■	S	L	Y
D	O	D	O	■	■	S	U	R	E	O	F	■	■	■
S	O	S	H	A	R	P	L	A	W	M	A	K	E	R
■	■	■	N	I	E	C	E	S	■	■	C	I	T	I
H	E	S	■	D	N	A	S	■	C	A	T	N	A	P
O	U	T	L	E	T	■	■	K	O	I	■	■	■	■
T	R	I	E	S	A	F	U	N	D	R	A	Z	O	R
B	E	L	A	■	C	I	T	E	■	B	L	O	K	E
E	K	E	S	■	A	N	N	E	■	A	D	O	R	N
D	A	S	H	■	R	E	E	L	■	G	O	M	A	D

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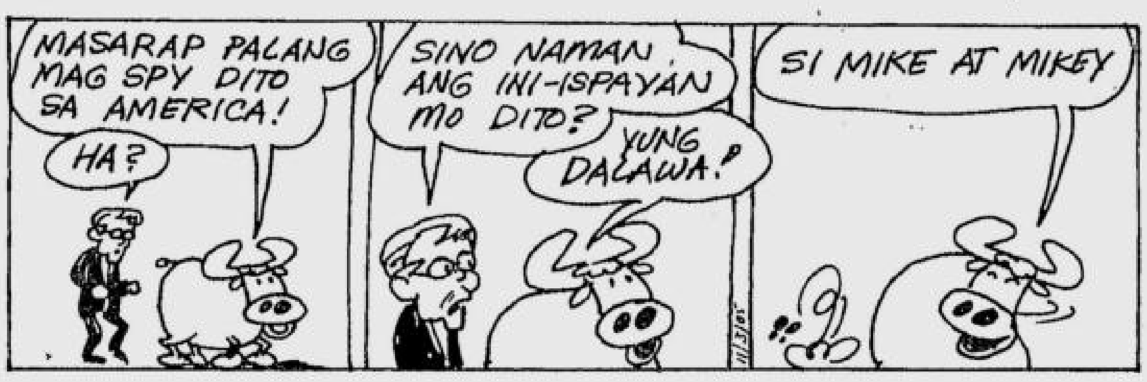
11/11/05

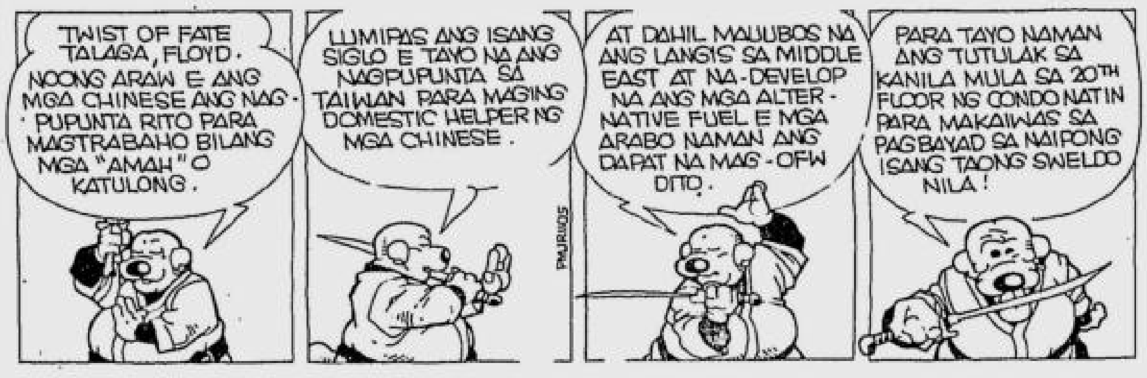
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASARAP PALANG MAG SPY DITO SA AMERICA!
HA?
SINO NAMAN ANG INI-ISPAYAN MO DITO?
YUNG DALAWA!
SI MIKE AT MIKEY
11/3/05

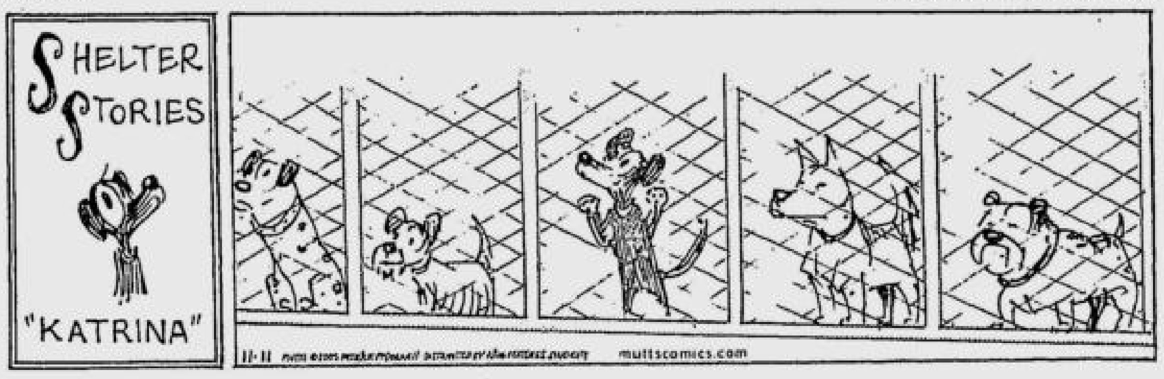
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TWIST OF FATE TALAGA, FLOYD. NOONG ARAW E ANG MGA CHINESE ANG NAG-PUPUNTA RITO PARA MAGTRABAHO BILANG MGA "AMAH" O KATULONG.
LUMIPAS ANG ISANG SIGLO E TAYO NA ANG NAGPUPUNTA SA TAIWAN PARA MAGING DOMESTIC HELPER NG MGA CHINESE.
AT DAHIL MAUUBOS NA ANG LANGIS SA MIDDLE EAST AT NA-DEVELOP NA ANG MGA ALTER-NATIVE FUEL E MGA ARABO NAMAN ANG DAPAT NA MAG-OFW DITO.
PARA TAYO NAMAN ANG TUTULAK SA KANILA MULA SA 20TH FLOOR NG CONDO NATIN PARA MAKAIWAS SA PAGBAYAD SA NAIPONG ISANG TAONG SWELDO NILA!

MUTTS

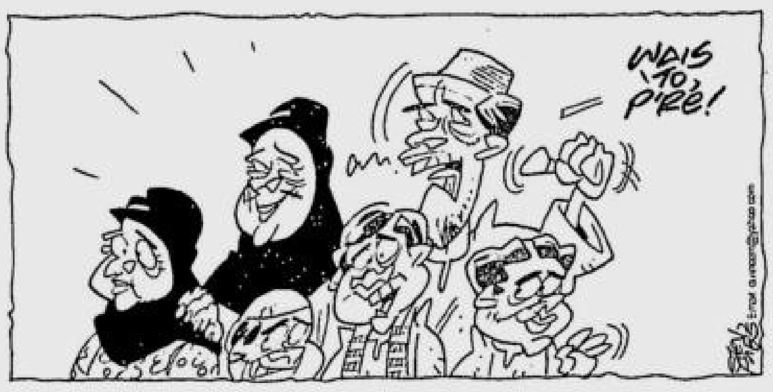
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"KATRINA"
11-11
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

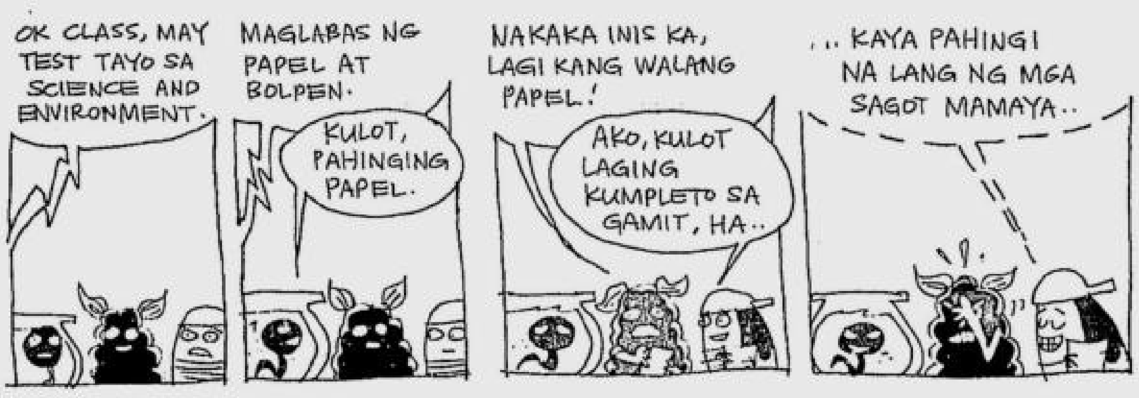
PARAMI NA PO NANG PARAMI ANG MGA LALAKING MUSLIM NA NAGIGING "MONO-GAMOUS"



ABA EH... IKAW NGA ANG MAG-ALAGA NG ANIM NA PAMILYA SA HIRAP NG BUHAY NGAYON!

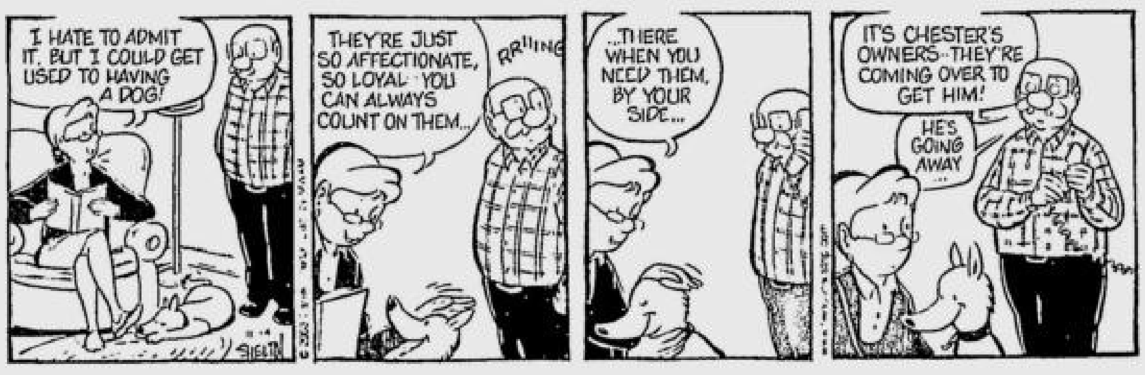
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OK CLASS, MAY TEST TAYO SA SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT.
MAGLABAS NG PAPEL AT BOLPEN.
KULOT, PAHINGING PAPEL.
NAKAKA INIS KA, LAGI KANG WALANG PAPEL!
AKO, KULOT LAGING KUMPLETO SA GAMIT, HA..
.. KAYA PAHINGI NA LANG NG MGA SAGOT MAMAYA..

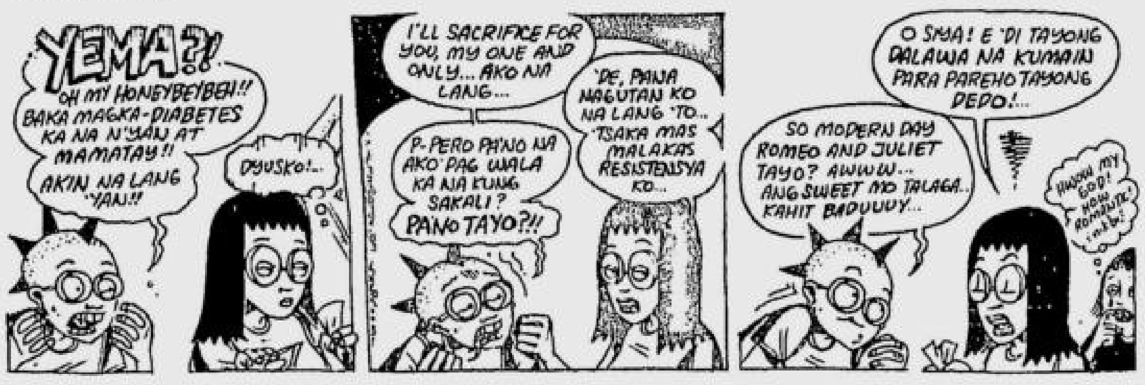
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I COULD GET USED TO HAVING A DOG!
THEY'RE JUST SO AFFECTIONATE, SO LOYAL. YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THEM...
RR'ING
...THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM, BY YOUR SIDE...
IT'S CHESTER'S OWNERS... THEY'RE COMING OVER TO GET HIM!
HE'S GOING AWAY...

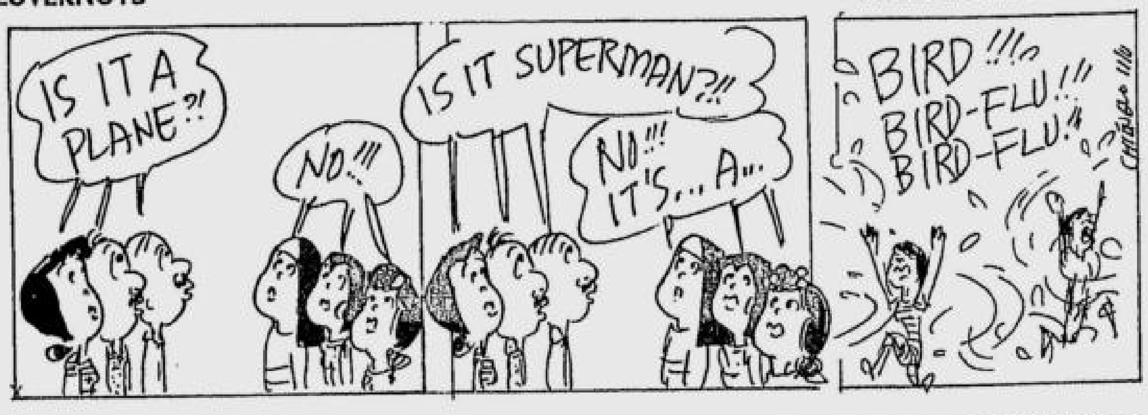
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


YEMA?!
OH MY HONEYBEYBEH!! BAKA MAGKA-DIABETES KA NA N'YAN AT MAMATAY!!
AKIN NA LANG 'YAN!!
DYUSKO!..
I'LL SACRIFICE FOR YOU, MY ONE AND ONLY... AKO NA LANG...
P-PERO PA'NO NA AKO 'PAG WALA KA NA KUNG SAKALI? PA'NO TAYO?!!
'DE, PANA NAGUTAN KO NA LANG 'TO.. 'TSAKA MAS MALAKAS RESISTENSYA KO...
SO MODERN DAY ROMEO AND JULIET TAYO? AWWW... ANG SWEET MO TALAGA.. KAHIT BADUUUY...
O SYA! E 'DI TAYONG DALAWA NA KUMAIN PARA PAREHO TAYONG DEDO!...
AWWW MY GOD! HOW ROMANTIC! (sob)

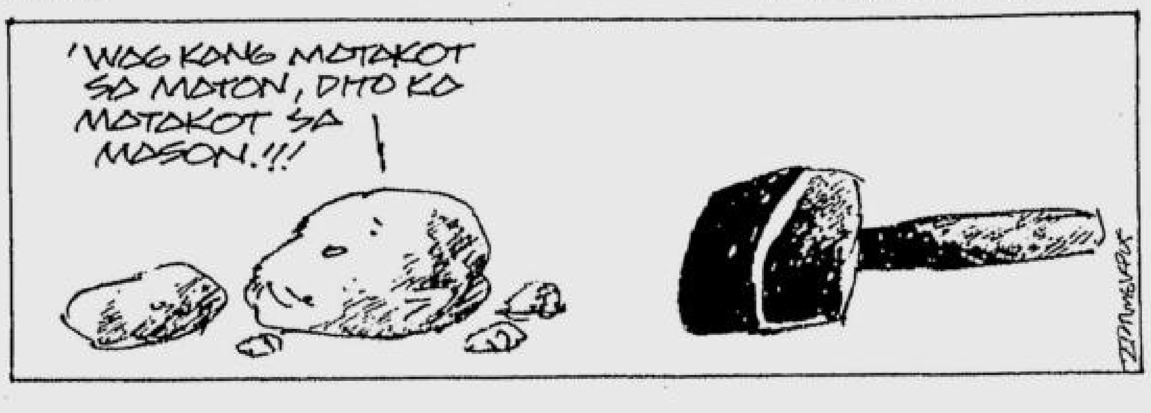
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IS IT A PLANE?!
NO!!!
IS IT SUPERMAN?!!
NO!!! IT'S... A...
BIRD!!!
BIRD-FLU!!!
BIRD-FLU!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MATAKOT SA MATON, DITO KA MATAKOT SA MASON.!!!

DID YOU KNOW...

THE Pinoy independent film, "Children of the Mountains," won the Mark Haslam prize for "integrity, originality, perspective and power" at the recent Planet in Focus Film Festival in Toronto, Canada, an exhibition of feature films with environmental themes from over 31 countries. The movie is about the Agta (of the Sierra Madres), one of the last hunter gatherer tribes in the world.

PETER and Gordon

STYLISTICS

No compromise for Annie Brazil

SHOW TIME

"SHE STUCK TO JAZZ EVEN IF IT didn't attract the crowd it deserved in some stages of her career. I admire my mom for many things, but especially for her resolve. She never wavered in her direction and style—and she survived."

Thus, Richard Merk justifies his excitement over his forthcoming gig with his mother, the illustrious jazz singer Annie Brazil.

Merk says he himself temporarily turned to folk music and even pop at some point, breaking away from jazz, his true calling as well, to make a living.

"Not my mom," he notes. "She has always lived and breathed jazz. Most of her contemporaries have retired, but she's still at it, as though it's her very sustenance."

At the recent Asian-American Jazz Festival in New York City, Annie was cited for her achievements in the craft. Truly, as far as jazz lovers in the country are concerned, Annie is in a class all her own.

She started singing in Manila and Japan in the 1950s. She has since performed in Okinawa, Sydney, Singapore, Hong Hong and Bangkok. She still sings in a jazz joint in New York.

Annie's show with Merk and Friends is set Nov. 16 at Merk's Bar and Restaurant in Greenbelt, Makati City.

Call 757-4720 and 757-4721.

ANNIE Brazil

Nostalgia: Bring it on

Two more big "nostalgia" acts are set in Manila before the year's end.

Peter & Gordon, "The Everly Brothers of the British Invasion" in the 1960s, will perform at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City on Dec. 1, and at a dinner show on Dec. 3 at Hard Rock Cafe in Makati City.

The duo's smash hits include "A World Without Love," "True Love Ways," "Go to Places," "Nobody I Know," "Soft as the Dawn" and "500 Miles."

As the first concert tour of the famous duo after 37 long years, the twin musical events shall officially kick off a series of reunion concert tours that will also take them to selected cities in Europe, Asia and America.

Tickets for the Araneta show are at P2,200, P1,800, P1,600, P800, P500 and P200; call 891-9999. For the Hard Rock Cafe dinner show, call 893-4661 to 64.

On Dec. 29 and 30, Viva Concerts gives Pinoy music lovers a New Year treat with "The Greatest Hits Live," featuring The Stylistics, 1970s superstars.

The group that gave the world such enduring hits as "Betcha By Golly Wow" and "Stop, Look, Listen to Your Heart" will perform at the Philippine International Convention Center with local hit makers Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Marco Sison and Rey Valera.

Tickets are at P3,500, P3,000, P2,500 and P1,000. Call 911-5555, 891-9999, 551-6296 or 6876181 loc. 620/715.

Tonight

The CompanY and Natural High at Virgin Café

Ntwine and Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square

Paramitaat SM Valenzuela

ISANG ENCANTADIA
4 NA BRILYANTE
ISANG KAHON
12 NA MISTER DONUT
BUMILI LANG NG ISANG DOSENANG DONUT PARA MAKAKUHA NG LIBRENG SPECIAL EDITION ENCANTADIA BOX AT PILLOW!
Encantadia
GMA
mister Donut

Streisand, Gibb reunite

SPIN CITY

BARBRA STREISAND REUNITES WITH PROducer/songwriter/vocalist Barry Gibb in a new collaborative album, "Guilty Pleasures."

This new collection comes 25 years after the duo's first multi-platinum seller, "Guilty," and contains 12 songs written and produced by Barry.

First single out is "Stranger in a Strange Land." Barbra and Barry sing "Above the Law" and "Come Tomorrow" together.

"Guilty Pleasures" is now available at leading record stores under Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

6cyclemind

ALTERNATIVE/pop band 6cyclemind has released its second album, "Panorama," under the Sony BMG label.

"It's just a collection of songs," says guitarist Chuck Isidro. "It tells of our personal experiences. There are 13 tracks—songs about friendship, moods, love, and heartache. Carrier single is "Sandalan."

"Panorama" will be formally launched Nov. 16 by 97.1 dwLS FM at Mugen Bar and Restaurant.

Concert on CD

VIVA Records has released on CD Sarah Geronimo's first major solo concert, "Sarah Live! The Other Side."

The album opens with Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl. Another highlight is "Contest Medley" consisting of numbers usually performed during singing competitions, including "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" by Aerosmith, "My Immortal" by Evanescence, and "It's All Coming Back To Me Now" by Celine Dion.

Sarah's hit songs are also among the tracks—"Can This Be Love," "I Wanna Know What Love Is," "How Could You Say You Love Me," "To Love You More" and "Forever's Not Enough."

Plus, Sarah's duets with guests Mark Bautista, Piolo Pascual and Regine Velasquez.

JASMINE Trias

'Mang Jose'

THE MUSIC video of Parokya ni Edgar's new single "Mang Jose" instantly became a nationwide hit!

Directed by Ace Enriquez, the video features former actress/model Angel Aquino and multi-awarded actor Mark Gil

BARBRA Streisand (left) with Barry Gibb

Chito Miranda, Buwi Meneses, Darius Semana, Dindin Moreno and Gabby Chee Kee play themselve.

Sweet excuses

"EXCUSES," the third single from the "Jasmine Trias" album released by Universal Records, has been recorded and mastered in ClockWork Studios, Los Angeles, California with Vincent Herbert and Gav Beats as producer. Beats also cowrote the song with Makeba Riddick.

6CYCLEMIND

"Jasmine Trias" has spawned three hits—"Lose Control," "Sana Lagi" and "Excuses."

Merk Christmas!

Richard Merk has launched his Christmas album, "Merk Christmas."

"The best way to sing of happiness is through Christmas carols," Merk said.

For the album he interprets carols especially arranged by Toti Fuentes. Also featured are the Fifth Gospel Choir, Reuben Laurente and Jacqui Magno, John-John Castañeda on guitars, Popoy Valmonte on trumpets and fugelhorn and Dingdong Boogie on bongos.

Tracks include "Grown Up Christmas List," "Silver Bells," "Christmas Song," "Oh Holy Night," "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "The First Noel."

Aria Productions Inc.
in cooperation with
GMA
Co-Presented by
Promil Kid
bench/
Ms. Regine Velasquez
Reflections
with guets:
Ms. Ai-Ai delas Alas
Jonalyn Viray
Musical Director
Raul Mitra
Aliw Theater, CCP Complex
November 4,5,11,12,18 &19
December 9 & 10
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Ticketnet Prices: P1,650 : P1,320 : P 880 : P 550 Ticketnet 911-5555 or 9267868

TAKE FIVE

No illusions, only naked reality

JAYCEE Parker

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I KNOW MY MOM. SHE HAD A SIMILar problem before, but this time around, she's really innocent," said Viva Hot Babe Jaycee Parker, daughter of former actress Rowena Ruiz, who is currently in prison.

Ruiz, also a sexy actress in the 1980s, has been detained at the Calamba Provincial Jail for eight months now for alleged possession of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

"I know when she's guilty of something. She just keeps quiet and tries to buy her way out of trouble. Now, she's making a lot of noise, fighting for the truth to be told," said Jaycee during a recent gathering with the entertainment press.

She added: "Her birthday is on Nov. 11, but it looks like she will celebrate it in her cell. I tell her to hang in there, that her children are doing everything to help her. She's a strong woman; she will overcome this."

Jaycee said that, because of work, she can hardly find time to visit her mother. "We just talk by phone and send each other text messages. My elder sister, Alexandra, brings her food and clothes every day."

Jaycee is busy promoting her movie, "Ilusyon," with co-star Yul Servo and Jennifer Lee.

"Ilusyon" opened in theaters nationwide on Nov. 9. Paolo Villaluna co-directed the film with Ellen Ramos for Viva Films.

How do you feel about being given this break, ahead of the other Viva Hot Babes?

I didn't expect to land this role. It's overwhelming. They said Direk Jon Red, who line-produced the movie, really wanted me to play the role of Stella although Viva initially had somebody else in mind. I worked with him in "Boso."

They say you are very bold, indeed, in this movie.

You can say that this is the first time I'm doing this. *Ginawa ko na lahat ang kaya kong gawin.*

Does your boyfriend (actor Danilo Barrios) approve?

At first, he didn't want me to do it. We both felt awkward the first time he visited the set. I forgot to tell him that there would be nudity. He was quiet the whole time. But when we got home, that's when he told me he had been shocked. I said I was sorry, but that the nude scenes were really necessary. I make my own decisions. If he has objections, we discuss it. But in the end, I still decide what's good for my career.

Do you think he'll watch the movie?

He said he would and that he'd even bring my grandma with him (laughs).

How steamy are those scenes with Yul?

We have two bed scenes, but the rest are not all that steamy. In fact, it was funny while we were shooting those scenes. Yul and I couldn't stop laughing. Direk [Villaluna] said he had a hard time with us. *Mas madali pa raw 'yung kay* Jennifer Lee.

What's the disadvantage of having a boyfriend from show biz?

Many girls run after Dan; *hanggang ngayon ayaw pa rin nilang tumigil.* You see, I'm using his old number. Every time I get text messages from his girls, I let him know. Sometimes, they call me. *Inaaway ako.* I guess when they find out I'm using Dan's number, *lalo pang nagpapadala ng* text. It's okay. I'm not affected. Dan just smiles whenever I show him the messages.

'Seinfeld' forever

VIEWFINDER

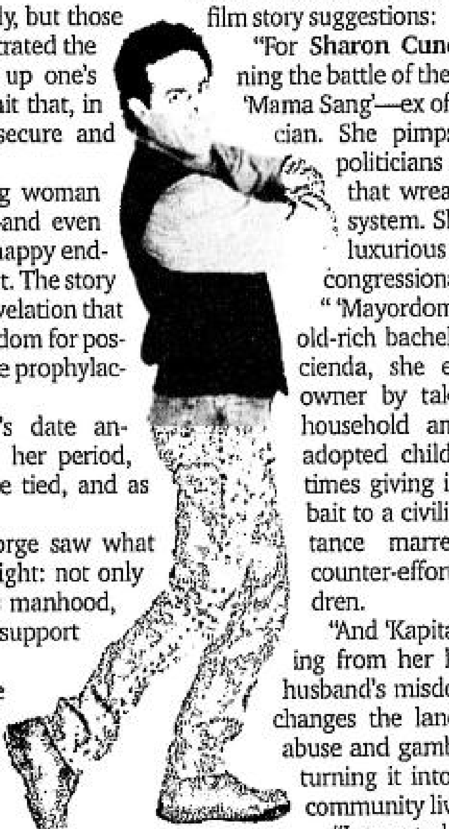
Nestor U. Torre

IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE "SEINFELD" STOPPED taping new shows, but viewers can still get their weekly (and, in some TV territories, even daily) fix of the much-loved sitcom.

We recently watched a really good episode of **Jerry Seinfeld**'s hit show on the Etc. channel, and again appreciated the sitcom's unique qualities that had made it such a long-running sensation.

In the episode, Jerry and Elaine were trying to match up two of their friends—George and a snooty young woman with impossibly high standards when it came to men.

At first, they were hesitant to agree to go out on a date, but it soon became apparent, between the bursts of laughter, that they weren't really such hot romantic prospects, and they eventually settled for each other.



The show was "just" a comedy, but those initial sequences brilliantly illustrated the human propensity for puffing up one's self-image, and refusing to admit that, in our heart of hearts, we're insecure and lonely.

Well, George and the young woman did finally go out on a date—and even ended up in bed. Was that the happy ending to the episode? Of course not. The story had to be complicated by the revelation that Kramer had given George a condom for possible use after the date—and the prophylactic turned out to be defective.

That's why, when George's date announced that she had missed her period, Jerry and Elaine were fit to be tied, and as guilty as all heck!

To his credit, however, George saw what happened in a more positive light: not only did it affirm the potency of his manhood, but he also manfully offered to support his date in any way he could.

That really melted the Ice Princess, and she finally accepted George for what he was. Even after the feared pregnancy turned out to be a fluke, they remained an item.

That recently replayed episode exemplified for us the famous sitcom's unique ability to take utterly common concerns and mine them for great laughs and insights. Thus does "Seinfeld" transform the "ordinary" into something really special—and endearingly funny!

Why not do yourself a favor and catch a "Seinfeld" show sometime soon? You could end up having a whale of a good time—even on umpteenth replay!

For his part, Jerry Seinfeld retired from the show a very rich man, and spent years focusing on his family. Of late, however, we've caught him making guest appearances on TV talk shows. Could he be finally ready to give TV comedy another regular go next year? Hope springs!

Feedback

PITT M. Pascua of Makati City writes, "I have read with great interest your column on film buffs' wish lists. As a freelance writer (with three film stories to boot), I would like to make these film story suggestions:

"For **Sharon Cuneta** (even before winning the battle of the bulge), a movie role as 'Mama Sang'—ex of a once-powerful politician. She pimps for top government politicians and lobbies mega deals that wreak havoc on the whole system. She is found dead on her luxurious yacht after a full-blown congressional investigation.

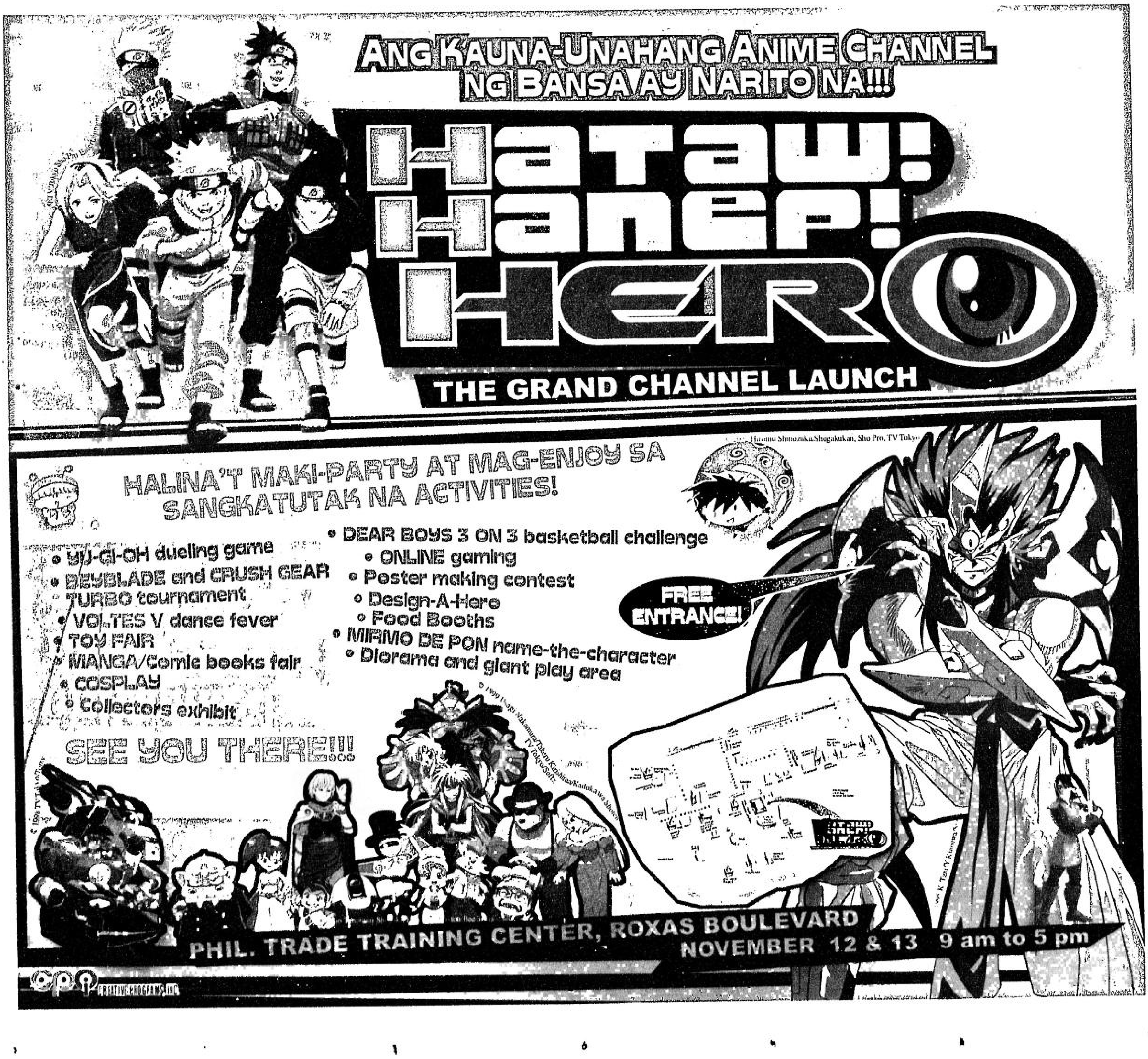
" 'Mayordoma'—as head maid of an old-rich bachelor scion of a sugar hacienda, she endears herself to the owner by taking good care of the household and his three wayward adopted children, as well as sometimes giving in to the scion's lust—a bait to a civilian wedding and inheritance marred by the combined counter-efforts of the adopted children.

"And 'Kapitana,' as a woman smarting from her late *barangay* chairman husband's misdeeds, this wife successor changes the landscape of a poor, drug abuse and gambling-based *barangay* by turning it into a center and model of community livelihood programs…

"Interested parties who want the full story concepts, email bosspitt@yahoo.com."

Feedback

FROM **Gardo R. Redondo** of Makati City: "I agree with you that Filipino film artists should make their own animation films, instead of working for US studios. But animation is expensive to do and return on investment won't come until after some years, so most local producers can't be expected to support such ventures. Another problem is, we're good at visuals but weak on storytelling. But we must find ways to overcome such problems."


ANG KAUNA-UNAHANG ANIME CHANNEL
NG BANSA AY NARITO NA!!!
HATAW! HANEP! HERO
THE GRAND CHANNEL LAUNCH
HALINA'T MAKI-PARTY AT MAG-ENJOY SA SANGKATUTAK NA ACTIVITIES!
YU-GI-OH dueling game
BEYBLADE and CRUSH GEAR TURBO tournament
VOLTES V dance fever
TOY FAIR
MANGA/Comic books fair
COSPLAY
Collectors exhibit
DEAR BOYS 3 ON 3 basketball challenge
ONLINE gaming
Poster making contest
Design-A-Hero
Food Booths
MIRMO DE PON name-the-character
Diorama and giant play area
FREE ENTRANCE!
SEE YOU THERE!!!
PHIL. TRADE TRAINING CENTER, ROXAS BOULEVARD
NOVEMBER 12 & 13 9 am to 5 pm
cpi CREATIVE PROGRAMS, INC.

RICA Peralejo doesn't mind the title "Scream Queen."

'I have talent; I can keep my clothes on'

By Nini Valera

RICA PERALEJO has kept her clothes on in movies for three years now, and yet she stays on top.

"I have talent," Rica boldly declared when asked how she survived the shift from bold babe to scream queen.

After "Hibla," her last skin flick directed by Yam Llaranas in 2002, Rica announced that she would no longer go bold, and promptly made a horror movie, "Malikmata."

"I work hard, and people in the business know that," she said. "Producers looking for someone who can sing, act, dance and host, always have me in mind."

She does not mind the label Scream Queen, she said. "I would rather be known as the girl in horror movies than one whose body parts are routine flashed on the Internet. I have seen pictures of myself on the Net, and it makes me shudder. I feel like I'm a piece of meat."

She has also come to terms with the fact that at 24, she is no longer matinee idol material. "I'm past that stage," she said. "I don't mind. I still make very good money."

Even during this all-time downtrend in local movie production, Rica still got two pictures this year—the comedy "Hari ng Sablay" under Regal Entertainment, and the horror film "Kutob," a Metro Manila Film Festival entry.

"That's what I mean," Rica stressed. "If you're a hard worker, work will find you."

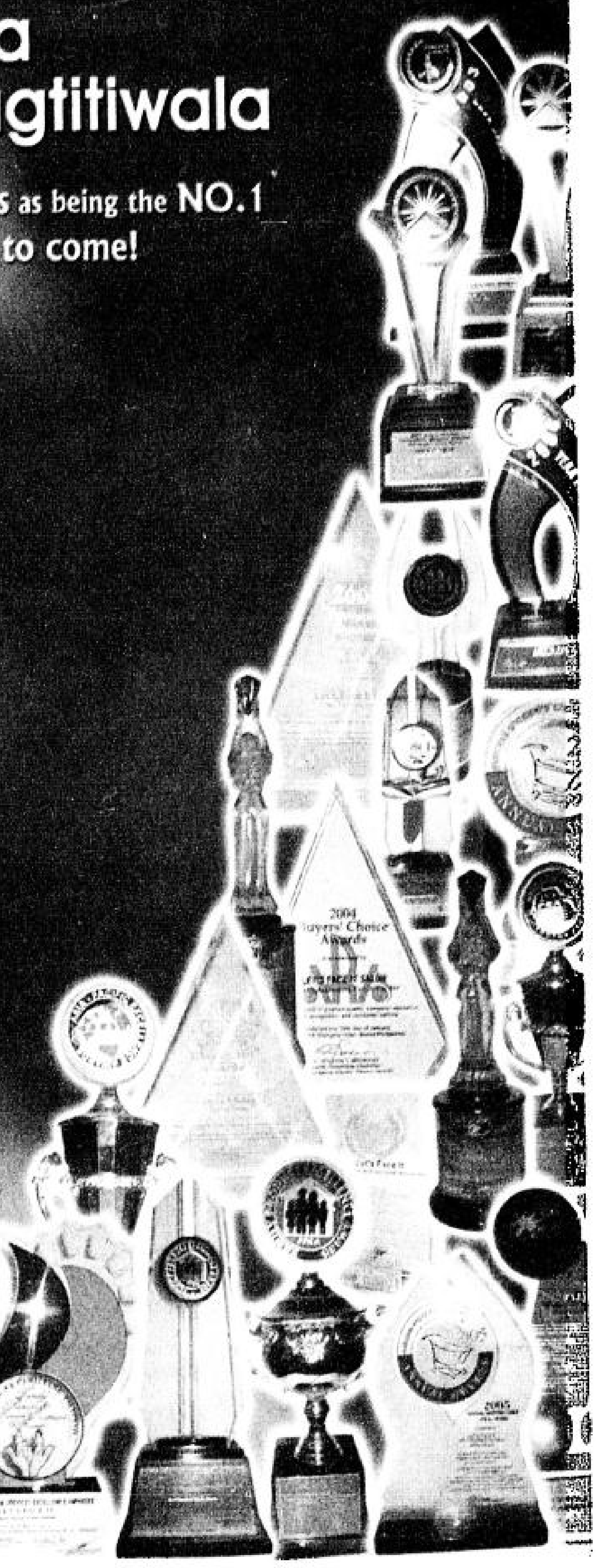
Which is more than she can say for true love. After three failed relationships with fellow actors, Rica is still looking for the right man. She did not find him in the British banker who introduced himself to her during a trip to London earlier this year. She did not find him in the brooding hunk, Bernard Palanca. She has a crush on the current object of desire of the whole Philippine Islands—Sam Milby, recent evictee from "Pinoy Big Brother."

"But I don't always get what I want," Rica said. "*Lagi akong sablay* when it comes to relationships."

At present, Rica is "in that stage *na pa*-cute" with someone from America.

"We communicate through e-mail and text messages," she said. She will see him when she visits the US later this month for a series of performances.

She begged, "Let him be my secret for now."



LET'S FACE IT
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON

Salamat muli sa
inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala

Let's Face It bagged 12 prestigious awards as being the NO.1
Facial Salon for 2005 and more to come!

2005 GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS SHENZHEN, CHINA
"Outstanding Facial Salon"

2005 PARANGAL NG BAYAN FOUNDATION INC.
The 20th Annual National Consumer's Excellence Awards
"Outstanding Service Facial Salon"

2005 PRODUCTS & SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARDEE
"Best Facial Care Center"

2005 PHILIPPINE BUSINESS ACHIEVERS AWARDS
"Most Outstanding Facial Care Salon"

2005 PHILIPPINE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS
"No.1 Facial Center"

2005 FAMILY PRODUCT EXCELLENCE AWARDS
"Outstanding Facial Salon"

PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
"Most Outstanding Facial Center"
Makati City Awards

12th ANNUAL ASIA-PACIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS
"Outstanding Facial Salon"

2005 NATIONAL SHOPPER'S CHOICE ANNUAL AWARDS
"No.1 One Stop Facial Salon"
Metro Manila

2005 NATIONAL PRODUCT QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS
"Best Facial Salon"

2005 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDS
"Top Facial Salon"

2005 BRAND CHAMPIONS AWARDS
"Top Facial Care Center"

2005 PEOPLE'S BRAND AWARDS
"No.1 Facial Center"

more dining
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more shopping
Supercenter Sucat is now a shopping city!
more malling choices for the whole family
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Parañaque City
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SUCAT

What Every Woman Needs...

unlock the key to her heart, finally!

Inihahandog ng QTV ang mga programang tiyak na kagigiliwan ng mga kababaihan. Basa ang kanilang damdamin. Huli ang kanilang kiliti. Dahil ang pulso ng babae, tugon ng QTV.

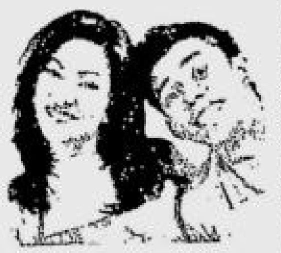
Every woman needs a bestfriend

Kasama sa buhay pamilya.
Kumare sa bawat usapang-babae.

Moms

Dagdag ginhawa para sa mga mommies, dahil nandito na ang A-Z guide sa mga usaping pang-nanay! A show made for moms, by moms kaya maki heart to heart talk na with Mommy Lani Mercado at Mommy Sherilyn Reyes dito sa Moms.

Day-Off



Mare, may oras ka pa ba para sa sarili mo? Mag Day Off ka naman! At wag kang magalala dahil kami muna ang bahala sa homework mo! May chance ka pang mapili para sa libreng spa package, shopping spree, cosmetic treatment at kung anu-ano pang treats! Para feeling beauty queen at relaxed ka pa rin kahit full-time ang responsibilidad! Your guilt-free Day Off, handog ni Pekto at Carmina Villarroel.

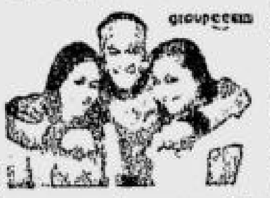
Ginang Fashionista

Get the latest fashion and beauty tips, plus get a chance to win a make-over package from no less than Ginang Fashionista herself, Melanie Marquez with her stylist angels, Shahani at Jomari. Because "when it comes to fashion, it's not your problem anymore, it's our problem anymore," sabi nga ni Melanie!

Liga ng Kababaihan

Ilalantad na ang tatlong mukha ng kababaihan! Lyn Ching-Pascual, the woman at home; Atty. Gabby Concepcion, si woman at work at ang woman's woman, Suzy Abrera! Sumali na sa Liga ng Kababaihan.

Groupee TV

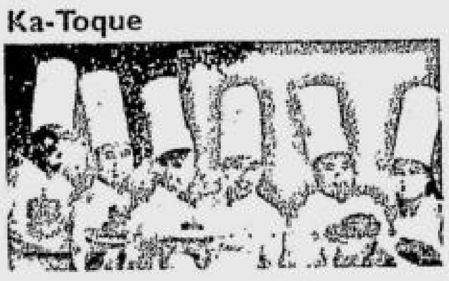


gives you the chance to make friends with the coolest and most famous people on earth! Plus! Learn the latest and hottest craze from your Groupee hosts: Cathy Bordalba, Mica Abesamis and Marco Borromeo. Groupee TV, pagkakataon mo nang sumikat!

Candies

Girls! Nandito na ang pinakabago ninyong barkada! Ang complete and freshest lifestyle guide na talaga namang sakay sa bawat gimik ng mga tweens at teenagers! Maki-sweet, sama-sama na with celebrity daughters, WinWyn Marquez, Inah Estrada at Alynna Asistio.

Ka-Toque



Isang buong barkada ng chefs ang susugod sa kusina ng inyong paboritong artista! Magpapamalas ng pinakamabilis at pinaka masarap na paghahanda ng pagkain para sa buong pamilya! Swak ang timpla, basta kasama sina chefs Rosebud, Mitchie, Darlo, Niño, JL at Jonah!

Fans Kita

Spend a day with your favorite TV idol mula tapings, rehearsals, gimiks at hanggang sa pagtulog niya! Pasimuno ang six Starstruck Avengers na sina Yasmien Kurdi, Rainier Castillo, Megan Young, Benj Pacia, Ailyn Luna at Christian Esteban!

3R

"Respect, Relax and Respond," sabi ng ating girl power team na sina Bettina Carlos, Reena Chanco at Bianca King. Makipag chikahan dito sa 3R infotainment show na magpapalawak ng kaalaman at kikiliti sa damdamin ng mga kababaihan.

Gandang Ricky Reyes

Be beautiful inside and out! Basta usapang kagandahan, si Mother Ricky Reyes ang bahala sa inyo! Kasama pa ang iba't ibang celebrities na magbibigay ng kanilang advice para talaga namang feeling beauty queen kayo.

Every woman needs a hero

Gabay sa pagharap sa mga pagsubok ng buhay. Inspirasyon sa pag-abot ng mga pangarap.

My Guardian Abby

Anuman ang dumating na pagsubok sa buhay, may isang anghel sa ating tabi na handang sumagip at magbigay ng bagong pag-asa. Gaya ni Nadine Samonte, bilang Abby, sa isang drama series na kapupulutan ng magandang aral at magsisilbing inspirasyon para sa buong pamilya.

Pusong Wagi

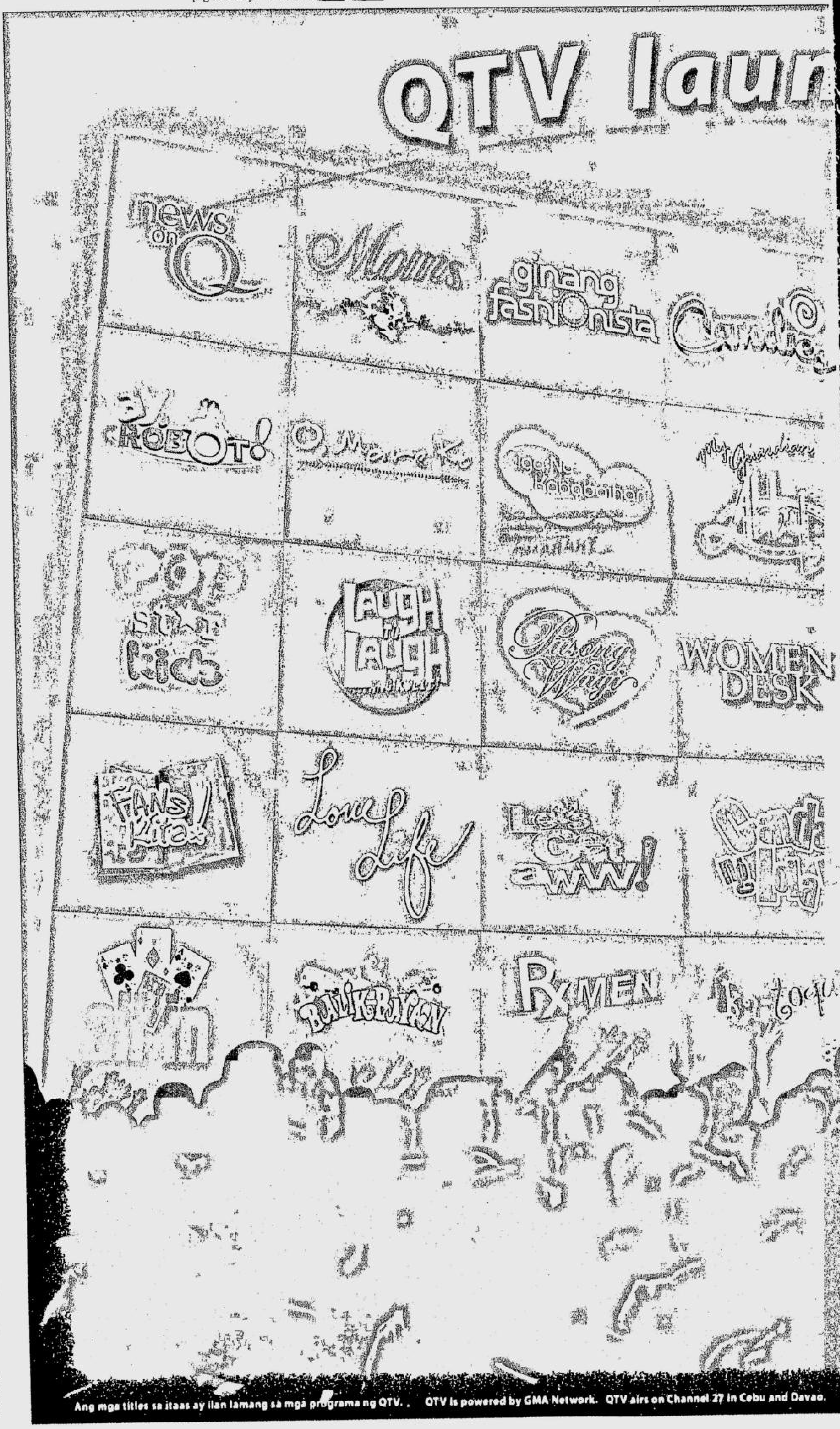
Samahan si Tessie Tomas sa paghahanap ng mga natatanging pusong wagi. Tiyak na maghahatid ng drama at inspirasyon hango sa tunay na buhay ng mga taong mahirap ma'y mayaman naman sa kabutihan.

Sana'y Muling Makapiling

Pinagsama ang pwersa ng dokumentaryo at tele-drama para sa isang misyon na pagtagpuin muli ang mga taong nawalay sa mga mahal nila sa buhay. Kaagapay sa puspusang paghahanap ang premyadong broadcast journalist, Jessica Soho.

RX-Men

Dito sa QTV, libre ang konsulta kay Doc!



Ang mga titles sa itaas ay ilan lamang sa mga programa ng QTV. . QTV is powered by GMA Network. QTV airs on Channel 27 in Cebu and Davao.

Dahil mapapanood na ang apat na real-life doctors na sasagot sa mga isyung pangkalusugan ng buong pamilya. Ang mga doktor ng bayan, ala X-Men sa diskarte, mabilis, on-call at action-packed!

Women's Desk

Samahan si Rhea Santos sa pagtulong sa mga babae at mga bata na biktima ng pang-aabuso. May kasangga na tayo sa laban. May magtatanggol na sa ating mga karapatan.

Love Life

Samahan ang makulit at walang inuurungan na si Love Añover for one whole day ng pagsabak sa buhay ng ibang tao. Silipin ang drama at saya sa iba't ibang kwento ng kanilang buhay.

At Your Service – Star Power

Tulad ng actress and commercial model na si Iza Calzado, ang mga paborito nating artista, hindi lang pang action, drama o comedy. Dahil ang mga tunay nating idols, nagmamalasakit din sa kapwa! Kaya't samahan natin sila sa pagbisita at pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan.

Every woman needs music

Sasabay sa indak ng kanyang sayaw. Makikinig sa himig ng kanyang awit.

Pop Star Kids

Maki-sing-along na sa mga chikiting na winner sa pagkanta at star na star sa bongga! Sino kaya sa kanila ang susunod sa yapak ng R&B Princess, Tanghalan ng Kampeon at Metropop Young Singers Champion at Pop Star host na si Kyla?!

Let's Get Aww!

Isayaw at igalaw ang mga katawan! Dahil nandito na ang latest dance exercise showdown, Let's Get Aww! At basta Awwsome moves at Awwsome exercise, let's give the floor to the Sex Bomb Dancers!

Fam Jam

Makisaya at makikantahan kasama ng mga pamilyang na walang awat sa pagbirit. Because the family that sings together, wins together! Hosted by father and daughter tandem, Francis and Maxene Magalona.

MMS

If music is your life, tune in na dito sa MMS, My Music Station! Music as you like it, when you want it. At maki-jamming with your ka-music trip, Raymond Gutierrez.

Every woman needs to laugh

Saya na makikita sa kanyang mga mata. Ngiti, sa kanyang mga labi.

Laugh 2 Laugh

Makitawa at makigulo sa pinakamakulit na triong Jaboom twins at Ryan Yllana dito sa Laugh to Laugh… Ang kulit! Walang tigil ang laughing trip habang nanonood ng funny videos at wacky challenges!

Ay! Robot

Isang experimental robot ang magpapamalas ng katatawanan at magagandang asal para sa buong pamilya. Makitawa at makidrama kasama sina Ogie Alcasid, Tanya Garcia, Ryza Cenon, CJ Muere, Eunice Lagusad at ang Starstruck Kids' Ultimate Survivor, Sam Bumatay.

O, Mare Ko

Ang mga seasoned actress na sina Gina Alajar, Amy Austria, Sandy Andolong at Lorna Tolentino, ang barkadahang magpapatunay na dapat lang tawanan ang drama ng buhay. Maaliw at mabaliw sa nakakalokang mundo ng mga kababaihan.

Show Ko!
Ang Pasiklaban ng Bayan

Magpapasikat na ang mga ordinaryong tao na may extra-ordinaryong talento! Pasiklaban sa galing, payabangan sa dating! Hosted ng reyna sa okrayan, ang numero unong pasaway na si Ethel Booba.

Ganda ng Lola Ko!

Paano kung tatlong makukulit at magugulong lola ang kasama mo sa bahay?! Samahan ang mga beteranong actress na sina lola Gloria Sevilla, Baby O'Brien, Bella Flores at ang kanilang mga apong sina Kirby De Jesus at Camille Prats sa isang sitcom na kagigiliwan ninyo.

Every woman needs to know

Dunong at kaalaman, tungo sa magandang kinabukasan.

Balitanghali

Mga pinakabago at pinakamahalagang pangyayari, ihahatid ni Pia Arcangel at Raffy Tima tuwing tanghali. Makisali sa mainit na balita at impormasyon na tiyak na mahalaga para sa mga kababaihan.

News on Q

Subaybayan ang pinakabagong pagbabalita na hatid ng pinakabagong tandem, Rhea Santos at Ivan Mayrina. Balita sa oras na mas angkop para sa buong pamilya. Balitang makabuluhan para sa mga kababaihan.

May Trabaho Ka!

Tutukan ang exciting challenges na haharapin ng daan-daang aplikante na sasabak dito sa kauna-unahang "job-finder" reality show sa Pinoy TV! Matira ang matibay, dito sa May Trabaho Ka! Kasama sina Mariz Umali at Paolo Abrera.

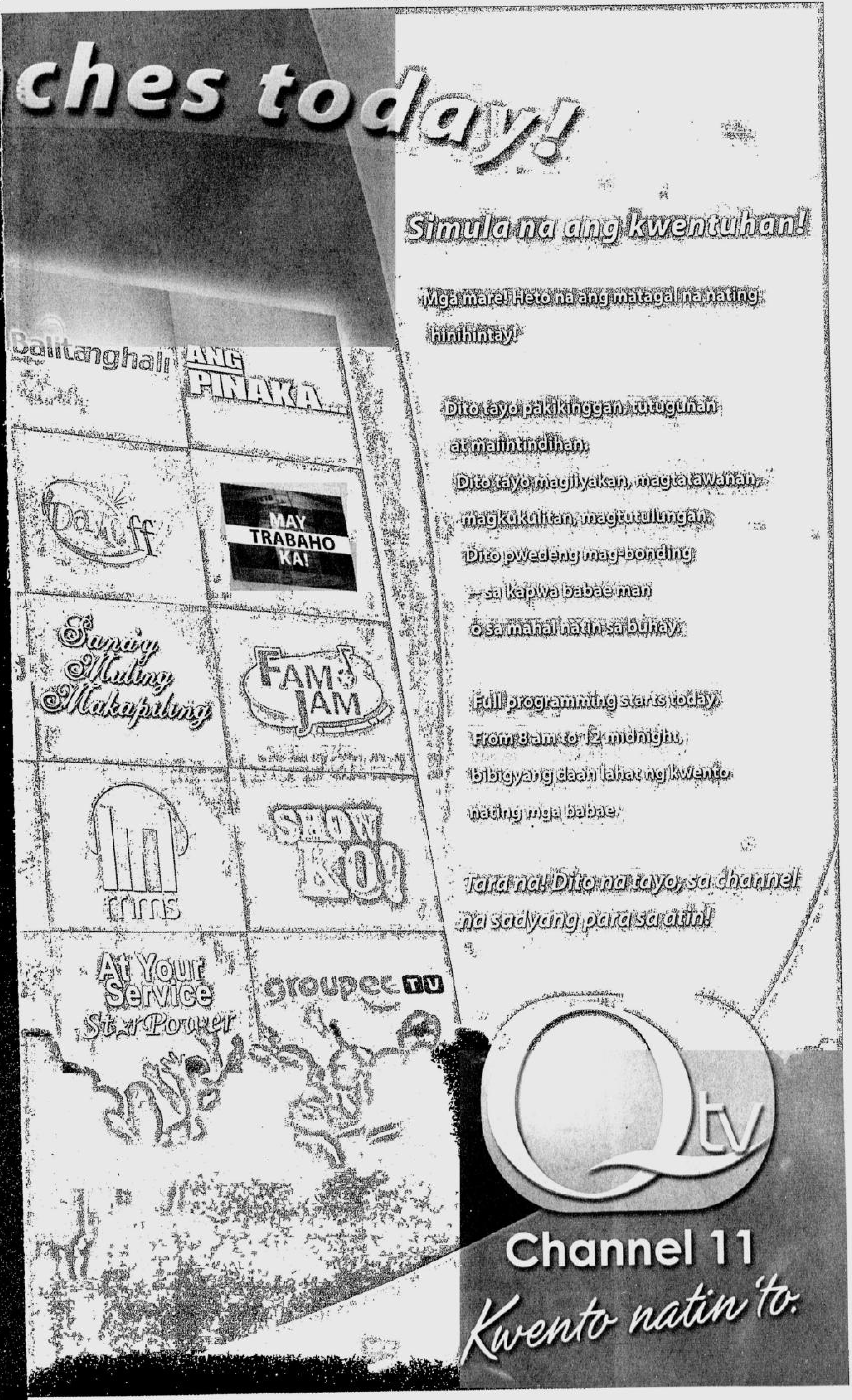
Ang Pinaka!

'Wag pahuhuli sa pinakabago, pinakaiba at pinakapopular na balita sa showbiz, politics, at iba't ibang latest craze! Ang Pinaka! Ang listahan ng bayang pinakaaabangan. May hihigit pa ba?! Ihahatid ni Pia Guanio, ang pinakamaaasahan ninyong ka-chikahan pagdating sa listahan.

Balikbayan

Pasyalan natin ang bayan ng paborito nating artista, at lakbayin ang mga nagga-gandahang tanawin. Samahan si byaherong Drew Arellano na mag-Balikbayan!

is what QTV is all about.



Simula na ang kwentuhan!

Mga mare! Heto na ang matagal na nating hinihintay!

Dito tayo pakikinggan, tutugunan at maiintindihan.
Dito tayo magiiyakan, magtatawanan, magkukulitan, magtutulungan.
Dito pwedeng mag-bonding
– sa kapwa babae man
o sa mahal natin sa buhay.

Full programming starts today.
From 8 am to 12 midnight,
bibigyang daan lahat ng kwento
nating mga babae.

Tara na! Dito na tayo, sa channel
na sadyang para sa atin!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

FAP head explains Oscar slip

Leo Martinez vows the academy will act accordingly next year

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LEO MARTINEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), explained to INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday why the country has no entry in the Oscar Best Foreign Language Film category this year.

According to Martinez and FAP board of governors executive secretary John Suarez, before INQUIRER ran two stories on RP's non-inclusion in the Oscar derby, the FAP had made an inquiry with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Ampas), which hands out the Oscars—perceived to be the most coveted accolade in world cinema.

Wrong address

"That was in October. We found out that Ampas sent the invitation to the Sampaguita Studios (near Valencia, Quezon City) in June or July," Martinez related. "The Actors' Guild still holds office there, but the FAP moved to Panay Avenue (also in Quezon City) in November 2003."

Last year, Martinez said, the Katipunan ng mga Artista ng Pelikulang Pilipino at Telebisyon (KAPPT or Actors' Guild) forwarded the Oscars invitation to the Panay office.

"This year, however, we're not sure if an invitation reached the KAPPT office in the first place," Martinez insisted. "In August, one of our employees discussed with [FAP chair] Espiridion Laxa the prospect of sending an entry. I was out of the country then. Atty. Laxa said we had to wait for an invitation."

To PDI columnist Ruben V. Nepales, Ampas publicist Teni Melidonian later clarified that the Academy "absolutely welcomes inquiries if a country has not received an invitation to submit an entry."

Command responsibility

"Now, we know that," Martinez said. "We got in touch with them through e-email… and [we] learned only in October that countries could make inquiries. But by then it was too late."

He said he accepted "command responsibility… [but] I don't see the logic in being blamed for something that I never received."

Does he feel bad about the missed opportunity?

"Yes," he quipped. "But what can we do? Now that we know [how to go about it], we will act accordingly next year."

Budapest orchestra in Manila Nov. 13

"TOYOTA CLASSICS—A World of Harmony" presents the Budapest Operetta Orchestra in an Asian tour that will include Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta, Seoul, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Bandar Seri Begawan, and Taipei.

The Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) marks Toyota Classics' 16th year. Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) supervises the concert in Manila slated on Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater.

In a recent press conference, TMP president Nobuharu Tabata said the company took pride in sharing with Filipinos a world of musical harmony.

Showcase

The concert will showcase the music and culture of Hungary in song and dance.

Proceeds will go to Pulong Sta. Cruz Elementary School in Sta. Rosa City in Laguna, said Dr. David Go, president of the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF).

Conducting the Budapest Operetta Orchestra is István Silló. The entourage includes two tenors, two sopranos, and four ballet dancers.

Preview

Coloratura soprano Alegria O. Ferrer, ALIW Classical Singer Awardee and voice professor at the University of the Philippines College of Music, is the featured local artist. At the press conference, she performed two Broadway songs—"I Could Have Danced All Night" and "I Have Dreamed"—with Nita Abrogar-Quinto on the piano.

Call Ticketworld, 891-5610.

Antonio C. Hila, Contributor

ROUNDUP

'Desperate' actor

LOS ANGELES—Page Kennedy, who plays a fugitive from the law on "Desperate Housewives," was fired from the hit ABC drama for improper conduct, a series spokeswoman said.

Kennedy, who joined the show this season, was let go Friday after a "thorough investigation by the studio" of the allegations against him, publicist Janet Daily said.

Details of the allegations were unavailable, Daily said. The alleged misconduct didn't involve another cast member, a source close to the production said, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

Fat no more

NEW YORK—Kirstie Alley has lost 55 pounds (25 kilograms) and says she wants to lose more.

Alley, whose weight gain was documented in various unflattering paparazzi photographs, said that when she started the Jenny Craig diet program, she was horrified at the results of her weigh-in.

"I weighed 219 (99 kg)," the 54-year-old actress said Monday on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." "For someone who spent most of her life at 130 (58.5 kg)… it was a shock."

Now a spokesperson for Jenny Craig, Alley divorced Parker Stevenson in 1997. They have two children, William True, 13, and Lillie Price, 11.

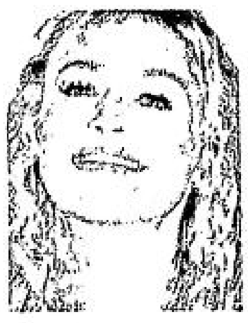
She said her goal was to lose 25 to 30 pounds (11.25 to 13.5 kg) more. *AP*

Busy Linney

LOS ANGELES—American actress Laura Linney is set to do double duty in front of the camera after signing on for lead roles in two new Hollywood films, the entertainment industry press said Tuesday.

Linney, 41, nominated for an Oscar for 2004's "Kinsey," is to co-star in director Barry Levinson's comedy "Man of the Year" alongside Robin Williams. At the same time she will take the lead in Billy Ray's spy thriller "Breach," Daily Variety said. *AFP*

Musical turn



AP

LOS ANGELES—Actress Sharon Stone has taken a musical turn, co-writing a song to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Stone worked with songwriters Denise Rich, Mark Feist and Damon Sharpe on "Come Together Now," which will be released as a CD single on Nov. 29.

"Every time this song gets played and every time this song gets bought, we're building houses and we're saving children," Stone said.

Celine Dion, Wyclef Jean, Patti LaBelle, Chingy, Joss Stone, The Game and more than a dozen other artists lent their voices to the song, available on iTunes since Oct. 17.

F4 reunion

HONG KONG—The popular Taiwanese boy band F4 hopes to reunite for an album and a concert in Hong Kong next year, one of its members, Vanness Wu, said.

Wu said arrangements are ongoing.

F4 has not formally disbanded, but the four band members have been pursuing individual careers.

F4 is famous for the TV show "Meteor Garden." The band was so popular in Southeast Asia that another member, Jerry Yan, was received by Philippine President Gloria Macapal-Arroyo when he visited the country in November 2003.

The other F4 members are Ken Chu and Vic Chou. *AP*

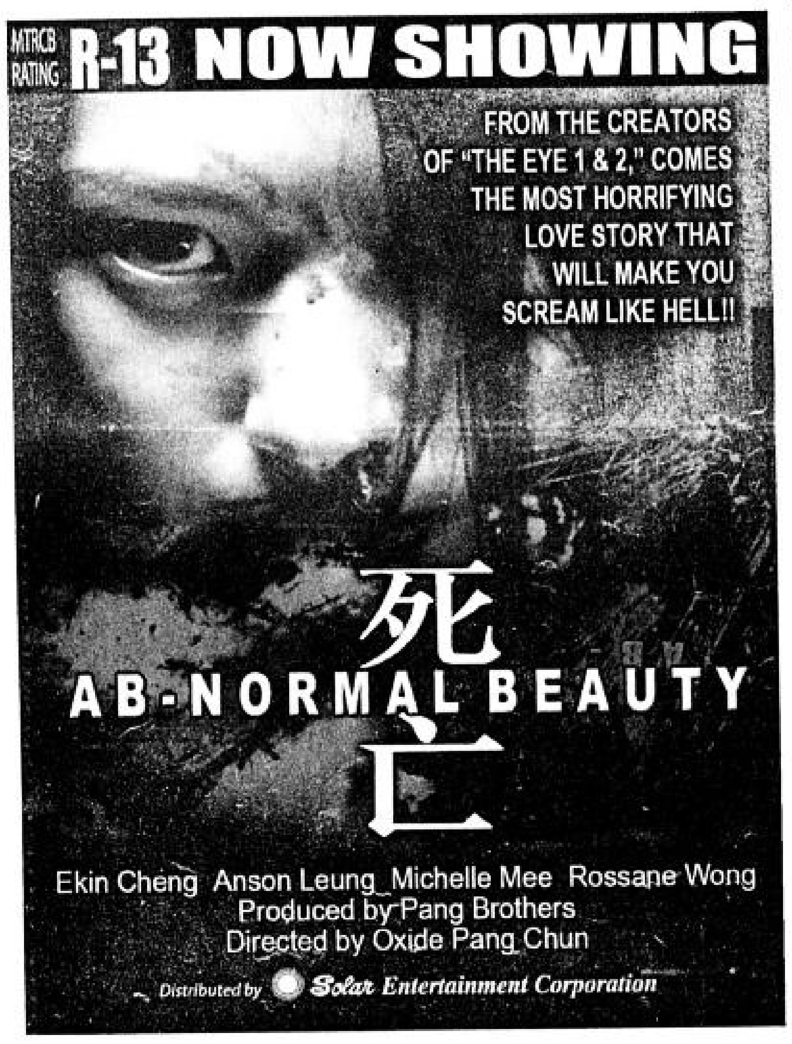
Moving on

NEW YORK—Actor Chris Klein says Tom Cruise was not the reason for his breakup with Katie Holmes.

"Her being with Tom has nothing to do with her and I discontinuing our relationship," Holmes' ex-fiancé said in an interview Monday night on "Access Hollywood."

"People move forward, people move on, it's what we do," the 26-year-old-actor said. Klein and Holmes called off their engagement earlier this year after dating for five years.

Cruise, 43, and Holmes, 26, went public with their relationship in April. They became engaged in June, and she is now pregnant with their first child. *AP*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Ekin Cheng Anson Leung Michelle Mee Rossane Wong
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Directed by Oxide Pang Chun
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FOUR BROTHERS
They came home to bury their mother...and her killer.
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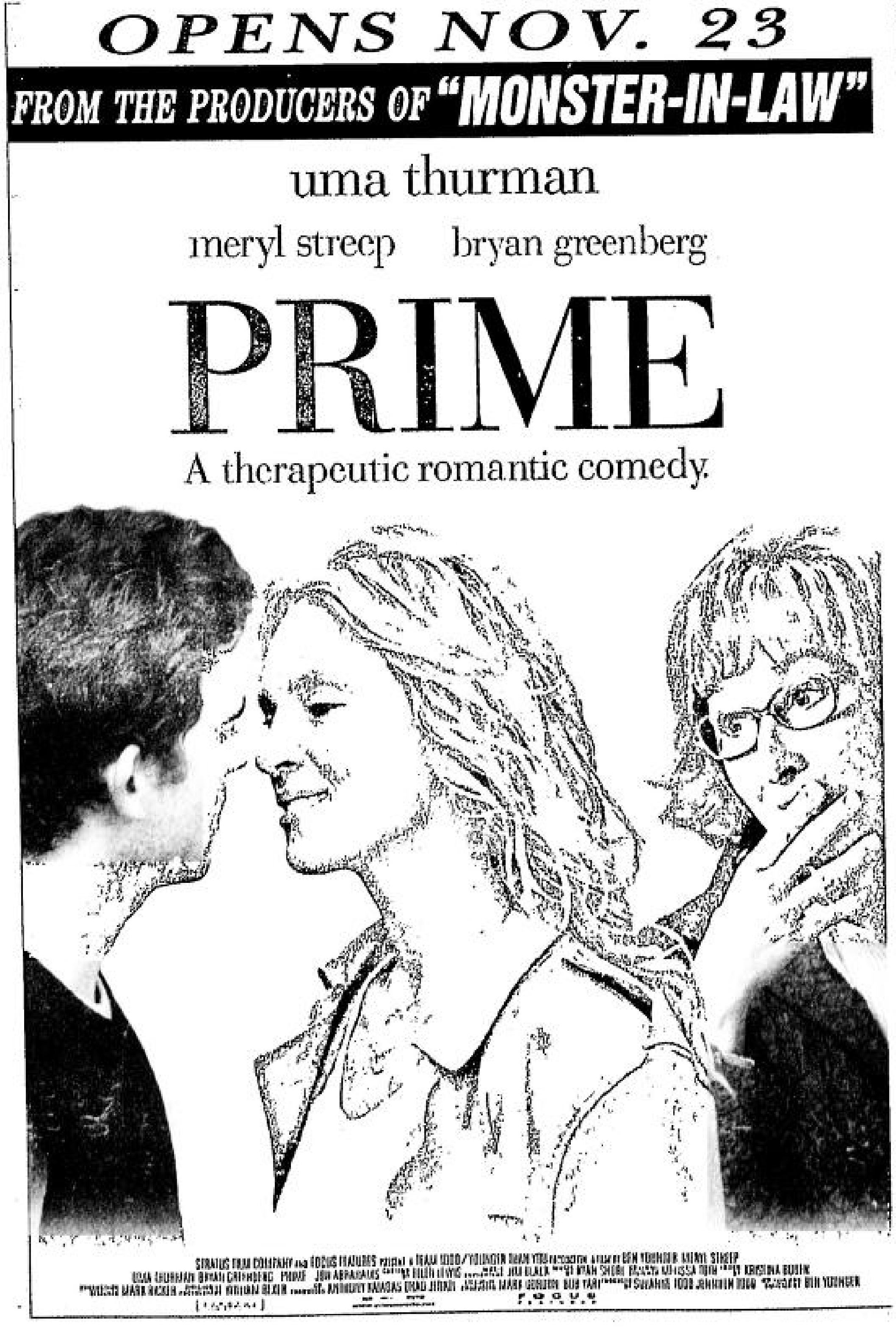
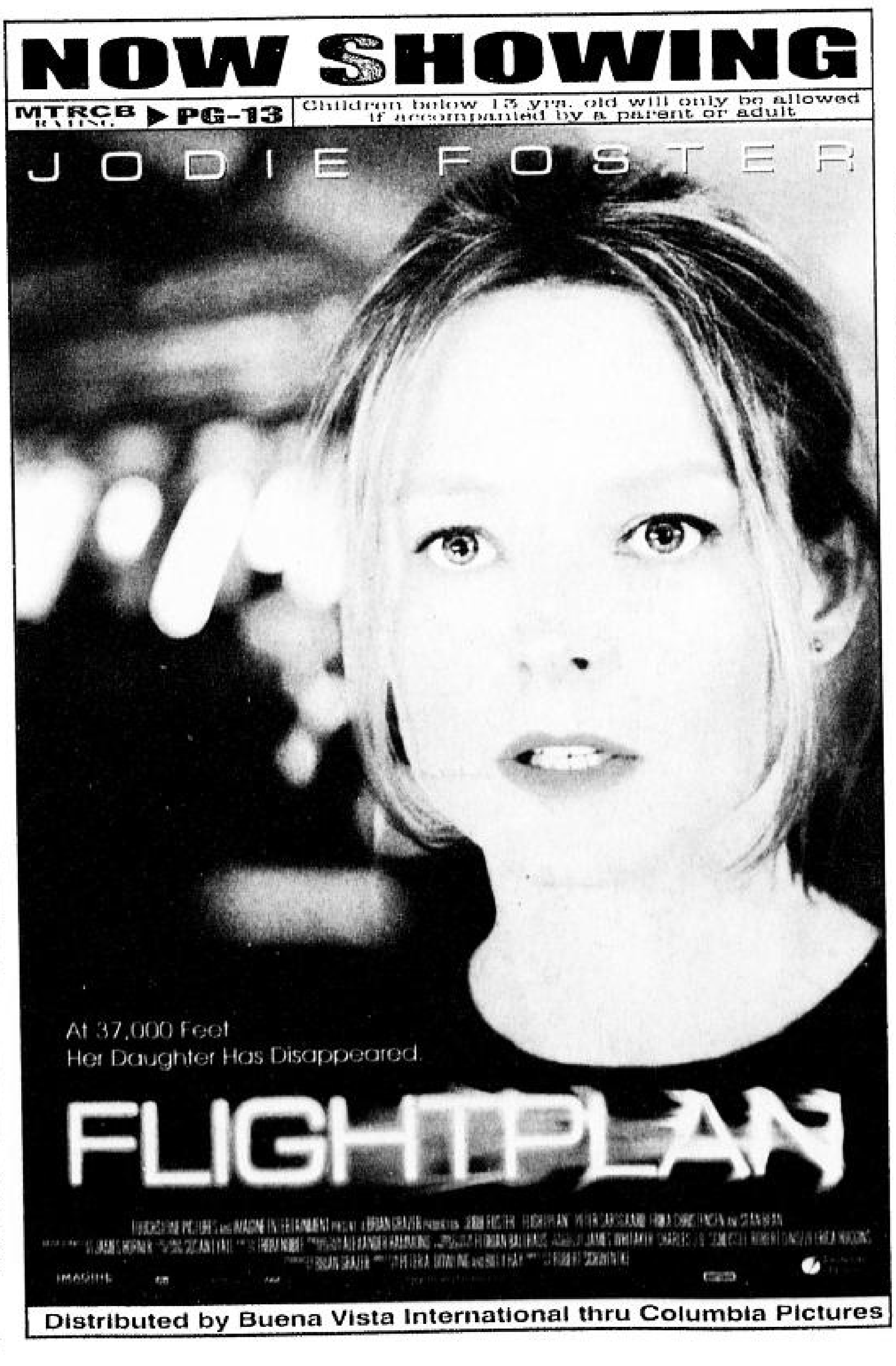

OPENS NOV. 23
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
JODIE FOSTER
At 37,000 Feet
Her Daughter Has Disappeared.
FLIGHTPLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

KID FIT

Family picture

"DUMA," STARRING Campbell Scott, Eamonn Walker, Hope Davis and Alexander Michaeltos, is now available on DVD and VCD from Warner Home Video.

Directed by Carroll Ballard ("The Black Stallion," "Fly Away Home"), the movie is about Xan, a 12-year-old boy who decides to return to the wild a cheetah he raised from infancy.

Harsh South African landscapes, predators and strangers seeking to cash in on the cheetah test Xan's resolve.

The DVD version includes the theatrical trailer and previously deleted scenes.

WHAT'S INSIDE

COCKTALES /B3

Political woes feared to cap peso appreciation /B4

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

First Pacific offers to buy 40% of Del Monte

Hong Kong conglomerate puts up $163M for the acquisition

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez
and Clarissa S. Batino

HONG KONG CONGLOMERATE First Pacific Company Limited has offered to buy 40 percent of Singapore-listed Del Monte Pacific Ltd. for $163.6 million.

In a statement yesterday, First Pacific said it has signed an agreement with Del Monte shareholder Cirio Financziaria S.p.A. and Del Monte Holdings Ltd. to acquire their combined 40-percent block in Del Monte Pacific.

Cirio Financziaria is Italy's largest canned food company, while Del Monte Pacific is the owner of the pineapple-based brand in the Philippines.

Since 2003, the Cirio Del Monte Group has been under "Extraordinary Administration," which is similar to Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

First Pacific will pay Cirio $163.6 million in cash, or 38.18 cents a share, for its 39.72 percent stake. The acquisition is subject to certain conditions.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, managing director and chief executive officer of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate, told the INQUIRER that First Pacific is still on the prowl for new acquisitions, even after the acquisition of Del Monte Pacific was proposed.

"I don't think my hands are full yet," Pangilinan said in an interview.

According to Pangilinan, he is now looking at acquiring interests in the food and telco business, as well as in infrastructure.

He said there were several investment opportunities in the three sectors across Asia. Some are in the Philippines, where prospects in infrastructure are bright. Metro Pacific Corp., the local unit of First Pacific, has been pursuing interests in this sector.

Pangilinan founded the conglomerate in the early 1980s using the capital of Indonesia's Salim family.

For Pangilinan, Del Monte Pacific is a very good buy because of its strong presence in China, India and specially, the Philippines.

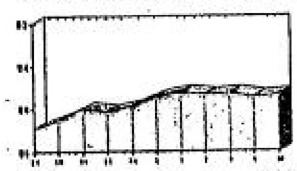
"The acquisition will require some work," he said. "My perception is that the

FIRST/ B2

BELL PEPPERS RING UP A GOOD PRICE
A woman sifts through a sack of bell peppers on sale at the La Trinidad Trading Post in Benguet. The prices of vegetables, mostly from the Cordilleras, were reported to have dropped considerably in recent days. All vegetables, save for the bell pepper, which still commands P180 a kilo. EV ESPIRITU

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

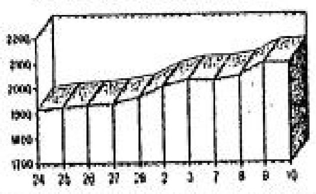
₱54.69 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 10, 2005

¥117.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 9, 2005

GOLD: $462.20-462.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 9, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares close little changed

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED with little change, holding at eight-month highs despite some profit-taking after recent sustained gains, dealers said.

SHARES/ B2

NSO: September exports dropped 1.2%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS dropped 1.2 percent in September from the previous year primarily due to the continuing decline in global demand for electronics and the lingering oil problem.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that merchandise exports stood at $3.599 billion in September compared with the $3.641 billion recorded during the same month last year.

The September exports data was a reversal of the 0.8-percent climb registered in August. But the NSO said that on a cumulative basis, the January-to-September exports figure still registered a slight growth of 3.4 percent to $29.958 billion from $28.964 billion during the same period last year.

The government has set a target of an 8-percent exports growth this year. But the unexpectedly sharp increase in oil prices has convinced economists that this goal is no longer realistic.

High oil prices forced consumers to cut down on spending for non-basic items like electronics, the country's major export product.

NSO data showed that electronics exports fell by 2.1 percent to $2.423 billion in September, reversing the 1.2-percent year-on-year growth recorded in August.

Benjamin Diokno, economics professor from the University of the Philippines, said that there are two main concerns threatening the country's export performance. One is the emergence of China and Vietnam as electronics exporters, thus eating up the share of the Philippines in the global market. The other is the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

While some sectors may welcome the recent strengthening of the peso to 54-to-a-dollar level, Diokno said it would further hurt the export sector because it would make Philippine products more expensive to foreigners. He said keeping the peso between 55 and 56 to a dollar would be a healthy level for the export sector. He also said it would not be bad for the economy as a whole.

NSO/ B2

Philip Morris expands capacity in RP

PHILIP MORRIS Manufacturing Inc. has begun expanding its capacity in the Philippines, saying that the implementation of the Sin Tax law last January has not caused a decline in demand for cigarettes.

In fact, Philip Morris is expecting growth in profit this year, although it may be slightly less than the 20-percent year-on-year growth registered in 2004, the company said.

Chris Nelson, Philip Morris managing director for the Philippines, told reporters that the company would raise the volume of its production by 25 percent. This would mean an increase of production from 24 billion sticks to 30 billion each year.

The cigarette maker, whose plant is situated in Batangas, expects to finish the capacity expansion by the first quarter of next year.

The company official said Philip Morris welcomed the Sin Tax law, saying the final version was friendly to business compared with the earlier proposal to raise the excise tax on sin products.

The new Sin Tax Law is one of the revenue-raising measures pushed by the Arroyo administration to address the country's fiscal problem.

The law states that for the first year of implementation, the excise tax rate on cigarettes would be 12 percent plus P0.40. Every two years thereafter until 2011, the rate will be 3.6 percent plus P0.16. For alcohol products, the tax rate is 20 percent

PHILIP B2

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6439. Series of 2005

Senate opposition threatens Napocor assets sale

Ban on cross-ownership of generation and transmission businesses proposed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE NATIONAL Power Corp. may face further delays if a proposal to totally ban cross-ownership of generation and transmission businesses will be imposed.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has filed Senate Bill No. 1929, which seeks to amend RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), and prohibit distribution utilities from making investments in power generation.

The proposed bill aims to prevent "sweetheart deals" between power generators and distributors.

Under Sec. 45 of the Epira, cross-ownership may exist between power producers and distributors, but distribution utilities may not source more than half of its total demand from an affiliate.

The law sets the cap to ensure transparent comparison of supply contracts between affiliates and other independent power producers (IPPs) that cater to the same load curve.

But instead of boosting the industry, the proposed bill may just further delay the Napocor privatization process and even prevent local investors from putting up new power plants, said Ranulfo Ocampo, executive director of the Private Electric Plant Operators Association (Pepoa).

In a briefing yesterday, Ocampo said that under the current scenario, local investors with enough financial muscle to participate in the Napocor privatization process also have stakes in power distribution firms.

Such investors include the Lopez group, which operates the Manila Electric Co. and First Generation Holdings Corp., and the Aboitiz group, which controls several power generation and distribution firms all over the country.

A cross-ownership ban, Ocampo said, would discriminate against local investors.

Since foreign firms may not engage in power distribution, unless they are working with Filipino partners and controlling not more than 40 percent of a particular company, these firms may bé the only ones likely to acquire Napocor's yet-to-be-auctioned generation assets, Ocampo explained.

ENRILE

"You're leaving the field wide open for foreign investors because you're prohibiting local investors from coming in," he said.

Because the number of prospective investors has been whittled down, Napocor's assets may command lower-than-expected prices, he said.

Also, the cross-ownership ban may increase the market power of the dominant supplier which, at this time, happens to be Napocor, he said.

Smaller power distributors, particularly those in the provinces, likewise stand to lose from the cross-ownership ban as they may be left with no power to supply to their franchise areas.

Ocampo said some small distribution utilities that had already invited generation firms to bid for their power demand had received not even a single bid. One firm in Mindanao received only one bid—it came from its affiliate generation firm.

"But with cross-ownership, there will always be an option for the distribution utility if no other supplier is interested," he said.

First Pacific offers to buy . . .

From page B1

company is decently run, which wouldn't involve so much work, unlike Piltel (Pilipino Telephone Corp, a unit of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.)."

Pangilinan is touted as having the "Midas touch" in the corporate scene after he managed to turn around ailing businesses like Piltel and, recently, Metro Pacific Corp., as well as its unit Negros Navigation Co.

First Pacific has secured fresh funds after the sale earlier this year of its $200-million five-year zero coupon bonds, which may be turned into PLDT shares.

First Pacific has a 24-percent stake in PLDT.

The company has also mandated JP Morgan Chase to arrange debts that would help it finance the acquisition of additional Del Monte shares in line with the tender offer for the remaining shareholders of Del Monte.

"We can handle the financing of the Cirio stake," Pangilinan said. "So the debt that we have mandated JP Morgan to arrange will depend on the level of interest on the tender offer."

Should First Pacific be successful in buying Cirio's stake sometime in January, it will be required to conduct a conditional cash offer in Singapore to buy out other shareholders of Del Monte Pacific and eventually take over the company.

Del Monte Pacific runs one of the world's largest fully integrated pineapple operations and has long-term supply agreements with other Del Monte trademark owners and licensees around the world.

If First Pacific succeeds in acquiring full ownership of Del Monte Pacific, it is expected to align certain aspects of Del Monte's businesses with the Salim-led PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, the world's largest instant noodles manufacturer.

First Pacific owns a 51.5 per cent stake in Indofood.

NSO: RP September . . .

From page B1

"The Philippines' export sector is very sensitive to the developments in the world economy because, if oil prices rise, electronics will be eased out in consumption," Diokno said.

Diokno said the country's export sector could still post gains in the last quarter of this year, but the best it could attain was a 4-percent full-year growth.

Following electronics in the list of top exports were articles of apparel and clothing accessories, accounting for $202.17 million of the total exports figure and reflecting a 5.5-percent growth from the $191.59 million a year ago.

Other top exports were: petroleum products, $74.03 million; ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles and ships, $60.46 million; other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis, $47.26 million; coconut oil, $46.74 million; woodcrafts and furniture, $36.05 million, and metal components, $29.86 million.

The biggest market for Philippine exports was the United States, accounting for $653.65 million of the total export bill. Other top export destinations were: Japan, $620.21 million; Netherlands, $374.10 million; China, $341.69 million, and Singapore, with $283.52 million.

Philip Morris expands . . .

From page B1

for the initial year. This will be raised to 6 percent every two years thereafter until 2011.

The law was a watered down version of the original proposals.

"Clearly, RA 9334 ensured sustained revenue generation for the government while providing a moderate and regular tax increase acceptable to the cigarette industry," Nelson said in a speech before members of the Asia-Oceania Tax Consultants Association during their annual meeting held yesterday in Makati.

Nelson noted that the cigarette industry would have suffered from substantially reduced demand if old plans of indexing the sin tax rates to inflation were pursued.

Philip Morris International, the mother company, said it has a 15-percent share in the global cigarette market. It produces leading cigarette brand Marlboro.

The company said it has interests in, or operates, more than 50 factories around the world. Its products are sold in more than 160 markets.

Michelle V. Remo

Shares close little changed

From page B1

The market rallied in recent days after the government finally implemented the long-delayed expanded value-added tax (VAT). Economists say the tax measure is needed to avoid a looming fiscal crisis.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 1.84 points to 2,099.14 after trading between 2,089.10 and 2,125.90 points. Volume was 972 million shares worth P1.34 billion ($24.53 million).

Gainers led losers 49 to 39, with 41 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index rose 3.38 points to 1,268.77.

The Philippine peso was at 54.709 to the dollar as of mid-day.

"Profit-taking has set in," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc. "This has been expected, given the strong gains over the past few days."

Bank of the Philippine Islands, the most actively traded stock, was up 50 centavos at 61 pesos.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone added five pesos at 1,835 pesos.

Manila Electric Co.'s B shares, available to local and foreign investors, fell 50 centavos to 22 pesos while its A shares, exclusive to locals, retreated 25 centavos to 14.50 pesos.

AFP

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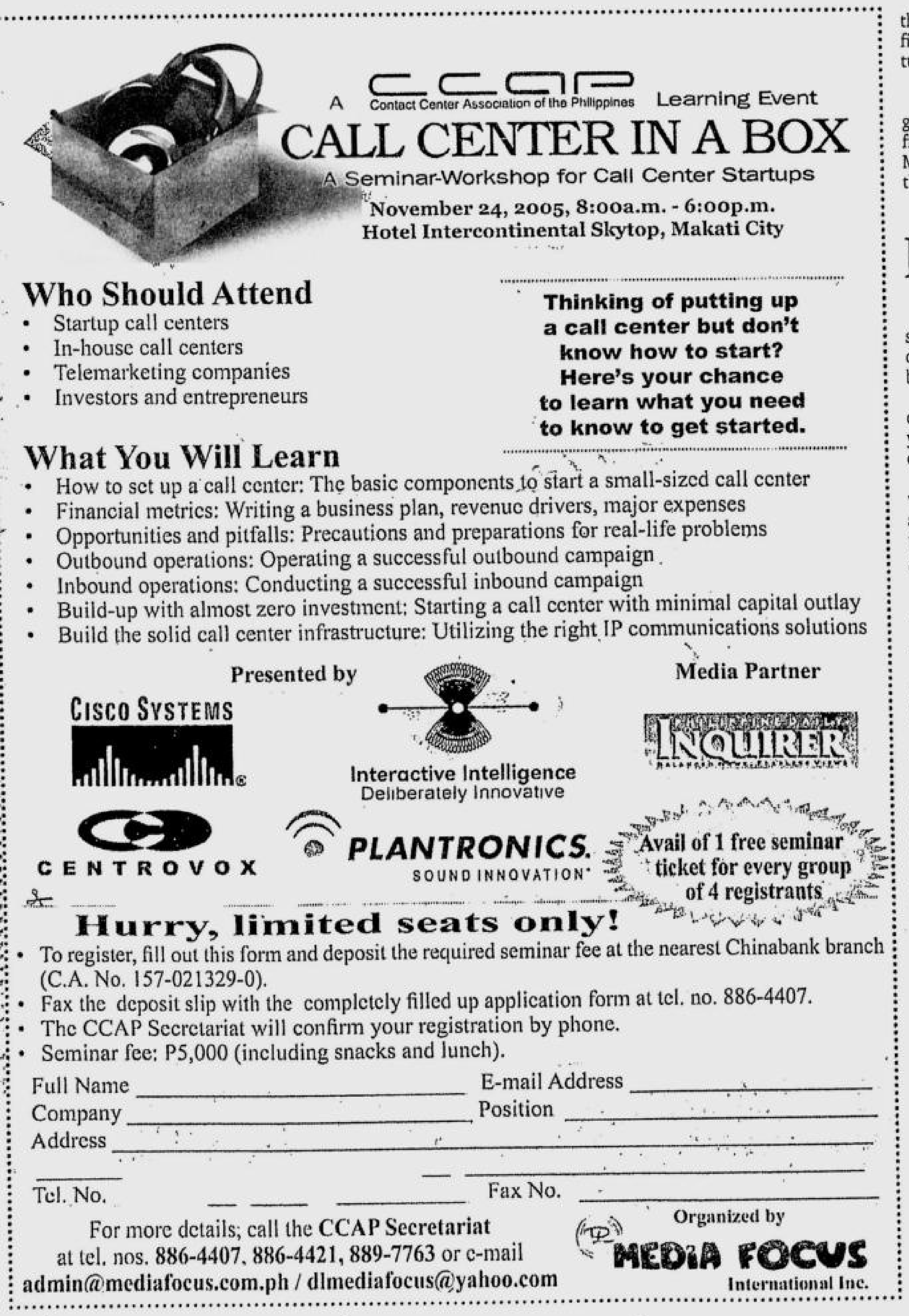
Per DTI NCR Permit No: 6187 Series of 2005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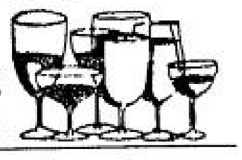

Victor C. Agustin

JOHN GOKONGWEI'S AIRLINE has unleashed its Yuletide presents to the Lucio Tan airline—P1,000 to P2,000 price cuts for all off-peak domestic fares.

The Cebu Pacific offer, which can go as low as P699 for Manila to Roxas as against the present one-way fare of P2,149, is available all-year round on a first-come, first-served basis starting today.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the airline has allocated about 30 percent of total capacity, or about a million seats in all, for the Go fares.

The airline's game plan is to increase load factor, which went down to 65 percent this year from 2004's 70 percent because of historic high fuel prices, to 75 percent for the year.

Initially available through the airline ticketing offices and select travel agents, the Go fares should be available worldwide on a book-and-buy basis on the Internet starting January, thus making them available even to *balikbayans*, said Bong Mojica, Cebu Pacific general manager.

The airline's initial deliveries of new Airbus 319 planes have shown encouraging results, and have even prompted PAL to announce that it too was replacing its aging fleet.

Mojica said Cebu Pacific's load factor for the busy Manila-Davao route was up by 22 percent last month, year-on-year, with the introduction of the new Airbus.

PAL, in answer, fielded bigger planes like the transPacific Boeing 747-400, A330 and A345 in the same Manila-Davao route, thus offering more capacity. From its aggressive start in 1996, Cebu Pacific has now snatched about 34 percent market share, and aims to dislodge the financially hobbled market leader, Philippine Airlines, by 2009.

It currently has 1,300 employees and 15 aircraft, for an 86:1 ratio, as against the former state-owned airline, which has 7,800 employees and 31 planes, or a 251:1 ratio.

Gokongwei said the Go fares would eventually be made available to the airline's regional routes to compete head-on with regional low-cost airlines.

Money-go-round

- THE MANILA Polo Club said it already has a website (www.manilapolo.com.ph) up and running since last month. Strangely, the website could not be found in the Google search.

COCKTALES/ B4

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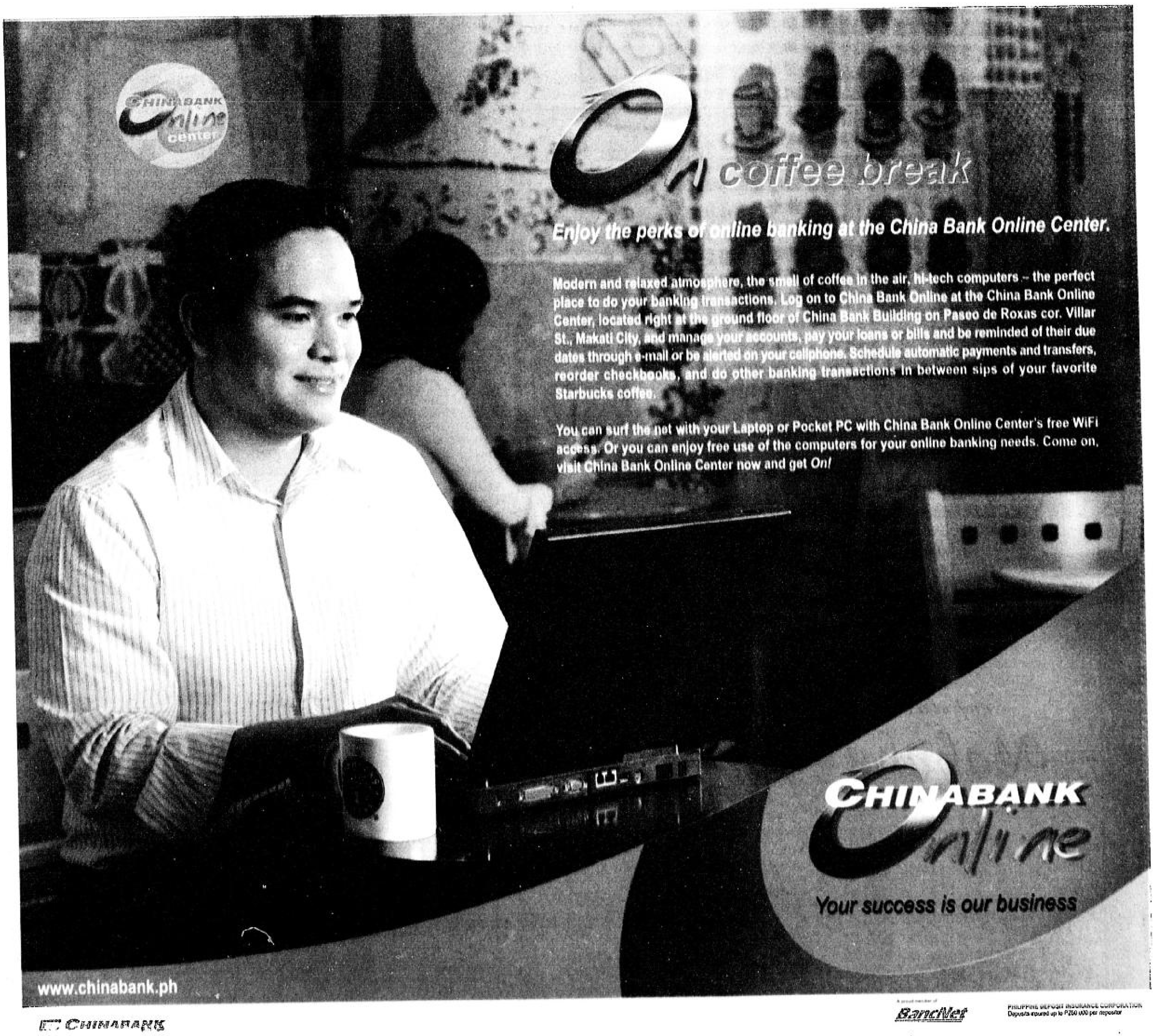

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Political woes feared to cap peso appreciation

Bank says investors now focusing on country's economic fundamentals

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO WILL LIKELY SUSTAIN its "cautious" appreciation to firm up at the 54:$1 level next year on the back of improving economic fundamentals, an economist at UK-based Standard Chartered Bank said.

In an economic briefing yesterday, SCB's Hong Kong-based senior economist Mike Moran said the peso's further ascent, however, could be capped by political uncertainties and the narrowing of the differential between local and offshore interest rates.

"We're still optimistic on the peso. We think it will continue improving in the first half of 2006," Moran said.

He added that the local currency's appreciation could only be limited by the strengthening of the US dollar, which was supported by the tightening of the US Federal Reserve's rate to 4.75 percent by the first quarter of next year.

Moran noted that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would have to also raise its interest rates by another 50 to 75 basis points in the first half of 2006 to keep a comfortable interest rate differential as well as to protect its inflation targets.

He said Philippine global bonds had likewise remained attractive to investors abroad as they were beginning to recognize the the fiscal consolidation efforts made by the government.

"We've drawn the line underneath. Investors are again focusing on Philippine economic fundamentals as they're seeing a positive story," he said.

Moran said this did not mean that political uncertainties had been entirely wiped out. This, he said, showed that investors were upbeat on recent progress in fiscal reforms, especially with the implementation of the expanded value added tax.

He said the accelerated fiscal consolidation and political visibility were reflected in the bank's positive outlook for the country. He said the VAT implementation would boost the domestic economy beyond 2005, thus boosting the country's credit worthiness.

Domestic consumption, which is driven by strong remittances from overseas workers, will be the country's key growth driver in 2006, Moran said.

For next year, the economist expects the Philippines to post a slower growth of 4.2 percent from 4.7 percent. Despite the expected slowdown, he said the projected expansion for next year was still "healthy."

The 4.2-percent growth in gross domestic product projected by SCB for the Philippines for 2006 was better than the 3.8 percent and 3.9 percent growth outlook for Singapore and Thailand, respectively, but slower than the 5.7 percent growth seen for Indonesia and 5 percent for Malaysia.

The country's inflation is seen to accelerate from 5.4 percent last year to 7.3 percent this year. The rate, however, is seen to slow down to 5.5 percent in 2006.

Globally, he said the rising oil prices remained a key risk but noted that the global economy was resilient enough to absorb the adverse impact of the increases.

Improving efficiency of production as well as lower cost of labor and capital arising from globalization, he said, were leading to low underlying inflation, low real interest rates as well as expansionary fiscal policies.

GSIS 9-mo income up 11%

GARCIA

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURance Insurance System posted an 11 percent increase in its net income in the first three quarters of the year.

GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia said the combined income from the fund's social insurance and general insurance businesses from January to September this year reached P35 billion.

If the trend continues, the GSIS is expected to attain or even surpass its P38-billion target net income for 2005, Garcia said.

The GSIS registered a record P36 billion net income in 2004, the highest among all government-owned and controlled corporations. The GSIS is one of the only two government agencies that are posting double-digit profits, the other being Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. which placed second with a profit of P11 billion last year.

"We are confident that given our strong performance during the first three quarters of this year, the GSIS would easily surpass last year's net earnings by at least 10 percent," said GM Garcia. "This only goes to show that the reforms we instituted are paying off, and we are on track to secure the long-term solvency of the GSIS fund."

Should the GSIS hit or surpass its P38 billion net income goal for the year, it would be the highest annual net income in the 68-year history of the government pension fund, said Garcia.

Among the reforms undertaken by the GSIS were the premium-based policy and the claims and loans interdependency policy or CLIP introduced by the GSIS board of trustees.

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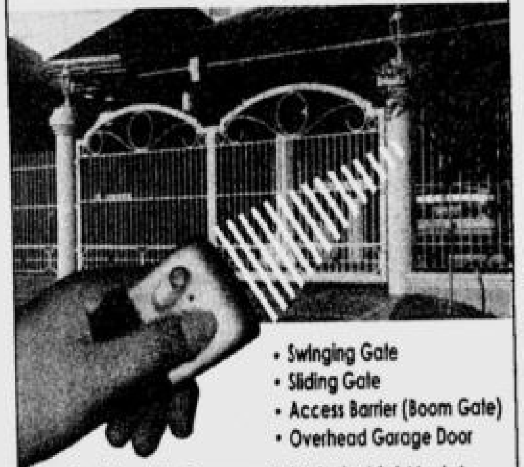

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The pre-bid conference is scheduled on November 24, 2005 at 9:00 AM at the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor Surgical Building Annex, BRTTH, Legazpi City. Opening of bids will follow shortly after dropping of bids at 9:00 AM on December 9, 2005 at the Conference Hall.

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National Marine raises stake in Lorenzo Shipping

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NATIONAL MARINE CORP. (NMC), OWNED by shipping heiress Doris Magsaysay-Ho, raised its stake in listed firm Lorenzo Shipping Corp. to 41.4 percent by acquiring a 12-percent additional interest in the company.

In a disclosure, LSC said National Marine acquired an additional 28.9 million common shares at P1.20 apiece for P34.6 million.

On top of this, National Marine bought an additional 9.3 million or 3.8 percent from the stock market.

All these purchases raised National Marine's holdings in LSC to 41.36 percent from 28.68 percent.

National Marine earlier offered to buy 51.3 percent of LSC for P185.2 million. The offer period ended on Oct. 28.

NMC is a local shipping company engaged in inter-island and regional trade.

It maintains operations in container shipping, petroleum tankering and barging, LPG water transport, ship agency, logistics and bunkering.

Under SEC regulations, a company is required to make an offer to buy minority shareholders of a publicly-owned company if it has purchased more than 35 percent of that company.

NMC is buying LSC to strengthen its position in the domestic shipping industry.

Founded in 1972, LSC provides inter-island containerized cargo shipping services in the country. LSC operates a fleet of eight cargo vessels that operate within a network of seven branches in Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Cotabato, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Manila. With plans to enter new service routes in the future, the company will open marketing offices and expand its network.

Globe Telecom eyes new loans

GLOBE TELECOM INC. WILL SIGN TWO NEW five-year loans before the end of the year to refinance $130 million worth of more expensive debts maturing in 2007 and 2008.

Globe's chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez said that by refinancing some debts due in two to three years, the company would save P45 million in interest payments yearly starting 2006.

The country's second-largest phone company is finalizing a P1.6-billion loan from Citicorp Capital.

It is also completing talks with Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, BNP Paribas, ING Capital, Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Bank for a $100-million loan.

Prepaying or refinancing debts allow the telcos with huge dollar obligations to save on interests, speed up debt reduction and minimize currency risks.

Globe has $944 million in outstanding debts. Of that, $20 million is maturing this year, $171 million in 2006, $148 million in 2007, $115 million in 2008 and $490 million between 2009 and 2012.

Gonzalez said the company would continue exploring opportunities to lighten its debt load, either by refinancing or prepayment, especially if interest rates would ease further.

Globe said it would spend less than $200 million for capital expenditures in 2006, down from $300 million this year.

Gonzalez said the capital investment projected for next year would cover the initial roll out for the third-generation wireless technology called 3G. He said the company would use internal funds to finance the network expansion in 2006.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom is taking advantage of a better credit rating from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's to ease its debt load.

Moody's in July upgraded Globe's foreign currency debt rating by a notch to Ba2 from Ba3 after it considered the ownership of Singapore Telecom in the local telco's capacity to pay its debts. S&P recently raised Globe's rating to BB plus.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the **Replacement of One (1) Unit Passenger Elevator Car Without Machine Room** with an approved budget of P2,500,000.00.

Interested bidders must register by submitting the registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting **November 11, 2005**. Deadline for registration is on **November 23, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.**

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE shall be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	November 24, 2005	1:30 p.m	Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	December 1, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	-same-
Submission of Bids	December 13, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	-same-

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on **November 24, 2005** from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila

On **December 1, 2005**, bidders shall submit their eligibility documents in a sealed envelope to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The envelope shall be marked with the title "REPLACEMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT PASSENGER ELEVATOR CAR WITHOUT MACHINE ROOM" and the name of the bidder in capital letters.

Interested bidders are required to submit their bids, personally or through their authorized representatives, on **December 13, 2005** The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information, please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Priscila L. Hilario, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 527-3480 or 527-3000 local 210 or 209.

(Sgd.) ARTURO L. SODUSTA
Assistant Secretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-November 11 & 18, 2005)

Cocktales

From page B3

- UNILAB will launch tonight Andros, the Philippine version of Viagra.

Heard through the grapevine

HSBC, which owns a third of the Ortigas and Co. limited partnership, is pressing the majority Ortigas heirs to transform the 75-year-old partnership into a corporation to insure continuous professional management of the profitable real estate company.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

ABS-CBN profit down 9% in Q3

By Clarissa S. Batino

STILL IN SEARCH OF A PROGRAM THAT will improve its ratings, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. yesterday reported a 9-percent drop in its third quarter income to P158.9 million from P174.6 million in the same period in 2004.

The company's nine-month profit stood at P344 million, 53 percent down from P734.6 million a year ago. Company officials said that while the hit reality show Big Brother had been enjoying strong ratings, it still was not the show that would boost the network's profitability.

The Ang Panday series, together with Big Brother, may however help start the long-awaited turnaround of the Lopez-owned network, which used to be the industry leader in terms of ratings and profits.

Raldolph Estrellado, the network's chief finance officer, said the company could do better. There is an urgent need, he said, for ABS-CBN to re-capture the prime time ratings from the rival network.

He is, however, hoping that next year will be a different story for the giant broadcast firm, which is lagging behind fierce rival GMA Network Inc. in terms of profits and ratings. GMA is expecting more than P2 billion in net profit this year.

During the current quarter, ABS-CBN is still suffering from a decline in advertising minutes of about 10 percent from a year ago.

"As long as our ratings are lower, it will be difficult to catch up," said Estrellado. "Big Brother is expected to be a major contributor in moving forward but while it is rating, it is not hitting the 40 percent target yet." The reality show is a 30-percent average rating.

The strong performance of ABS-CBN Global Ltd. buoyed the company's revenue and helped offset a 5-percent drop in local airtime revenue. Estrellado said the network has 24 percent penetration rate in the United States market and would like to grow this to 45 percent in five years.

The global unit has clinched a deal with American firm DirectTV where it received fees for the transfer of its existing customers in the US. So far, the fees from the deal were at P618 million.

ABS-CBN Films and Star Records registered losses.

The company's expenses rose by 12 percent in nine months, inclusive of one-time expenses especially those related to job cuts, according to Estrellado.

The finance executive said the company laid off about 400 employees this year. The streamlining will give ABS-CBN about P350 million in savings yearly starting 2006.

"We can't do much more in terms of expenses without hitting the bones," said Estrellado.

The finance chief said that 2006 should be a better year for the network. All the ingredients, he said, were present already, especially in terms of costs management.

"This year woke us up and forced us to do a lot of things. I won't say it was a failure," he said. "It was still fruitful in a lot of sense."

San Miguel posts 9-month income of ₱5.2B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. POSTED A NET INCOME of P5.23 billion in the first nine months of the year, down by 6.1 percent from year-ago's P5.57 billion.

Sources said this was due to high financing charges on loans that were used to acquire control of Australian dairy National Foods Ltd.

Financing charges amounted to P3.28 billion, without this, net income would have increased by 1 percent.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMC said its consolidated revenue grew 32 percent to P161 billion from year-ago level.

However, the rising costs of raw materials, packaging and utilities tempered gains in operating income to P12.2 billion, 9 percent higher than last year, Ferdinand Constantino, SMC chief finance officer, told investors in a briefing yesterday.

The beer-based conglomerate earned P3.85 billion in the first half of the year.

Sources said local beer sales were flat during the nine-month period but revenues were up 11 percent.

Gains were recorded in SMC's domestic beer operations, which generated P5.79 billion in in-

SAN MIGUEL/ B6

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	34	34	1,071,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60.5	62.5	60.5	61	3,395,900
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	240
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.66	0.66	10,210,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52.5	53	51.5	52.5	265,600
International Exch. Bank	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.75	222,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	31	29.5	30.5	3,616,100
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	31.5	31.5	64,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	31	33	31	32.5	2,974,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	31	30.5	31	10,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3000	3000	3000	3000	930
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	709,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	143	145	143	145	3,990
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	1,200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	16	16	15.25	15.5	75,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.98	6,620,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	735	720	720	16,620
Ipeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	31,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	7,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.45	11,210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1820	1860	1820	1835	72,850
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	2,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	280,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	11,400
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22	22	2,419,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	4,303,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.1	3.85	3.9	5,954,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.96	230,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.8	547,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	690,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	34,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.58	0.58	190,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	60,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.55	3.55	2,215,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	62,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38	38.5	37.5	38	497,600
Pancake House Inc.	3.05	3.05	2.95	2.95	21,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64	65	75,500
San Miguel Corp. B	90	90	89.5	89.5	120,800
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	357,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	51,000,000
Ayala Corp.	320	325	312.5	317.5	156,250
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,878,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	21,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.24	2.24	464,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.235	0.235	820,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	300,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.4	39,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.16	11,946,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1	1	1	1	200,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	610,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	8,610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.8	3.55	3.8	3,618,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	850,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	49.5	47	48	1,084,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	8,700,000
Ionics Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	22,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	28	28	28	28	100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	2,990,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.72	1.72	25,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.22	1.26	23,959,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.35	18,260,000
Paxys Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	1,542,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.21	0.21	510,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	242	250	242	249	326,280
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.135	16,780,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.2	145,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	280,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.09	0.0875	0.09	600,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.96	3,720,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	280,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.48	1,644,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	3,150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	16.25	16.25	15.5	15.5	183,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.3	9.6	9.3	9.5	10,482,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.96	1,030,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	7,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	3,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	10,368,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	5,110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	520,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.115	0.13	1,230,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	197,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	51,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	4,319,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.92	0.96	0.91	0.96	130,000
Apex Mining Co., Inc.B	0.89	0.97	0.89	0.97	810,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	137,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	742,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	36,000
Benguet Corp. B	39	39	38	38	1,300
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	11,030,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.017	113,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	79,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.12	4,327,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.34	11,255,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28.5	27.5	27.5	130,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	360,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.135	6,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	60,000

CURRENCIES

November 10, 2005

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.850123	1.000000	54.6400
Japan	Yen	0.007231	0.008506	0.4648
United Kingdom	Pound	1.482190	1.743500	95.2648
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109597	0.128919	7.0441
Switzerland	Franc	0.648504	0.762835	41.6813
Canada	Dollar	0.716859	0.843241	46.0747
Singapore	Dollar	0.499749	0.587855	32.1204
Australia	Dollar	0.623304	0.733192	40.0616
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.255089	2.652661	144.9414
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226681	0.266645	14.5695
Brunei	Dollar	0.498284	0.586132	32.0263
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000101	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020644	0.024284	1.3269
UAE	Dirham	0.231458	0.272264	14.8765
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.176300	64.2730
Argentina	Peso	0.286478	0.336984	18.4128
Brazil	Real	0.391671	0.460723	25.1739
Denmark	Kroner	0.134051	0.157684	8.6159
India	Rupee	0.018590	0.021867	1.1948
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225049	0.264725	14.4646
Mexico	New Peso	0.079236	0.093205	5.0927
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580804	0.683200	37.3300
Norway	Kroner	0.129243	0.152029	8.3069
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014228	0.016736	0.9145
South Africa	Rand	0.125997	0.148210	8.0982
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.000956	0.0522
Sweden	Kroner	0.104111	0.122466	6.6915
Syria	Pound	0.016377	0.019264	1.0526
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026301	0.029761	1.6261
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000396	0.000466	0.0255

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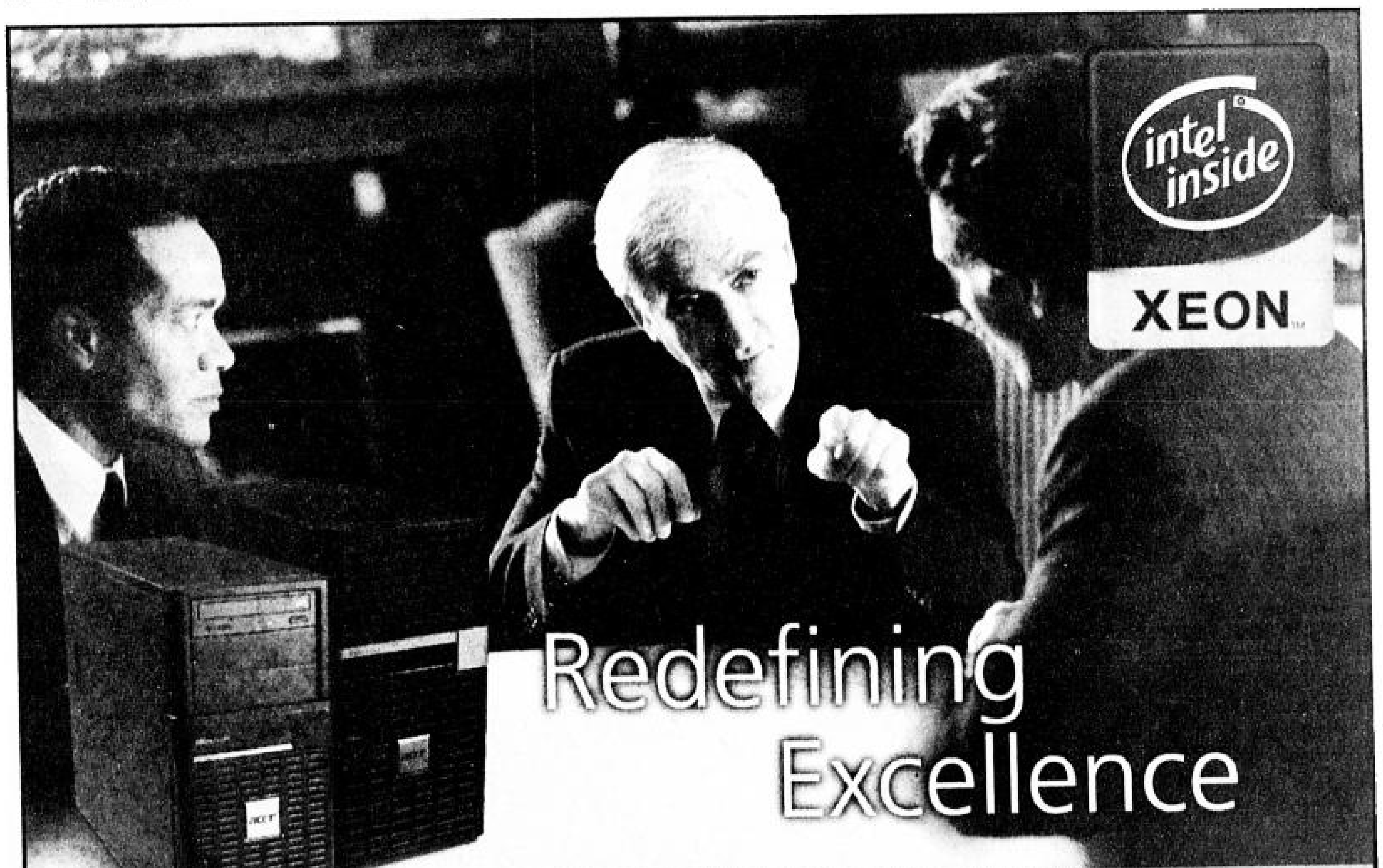
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week November 08, 2005	Last Week November 01, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.28541	1.28593
Managed Fund - Peso	1.40336	1.39052
Growth Fund - Peso	1.07900	1.04072
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1576	1.1533

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (in Php) Nov. 7, 2005	Oct. 31, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.064580	1.062582
Balanced Fund	1.053619	1.045834
Equity Fund	1.029260	1.007930

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.



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- Intel® Hyper Threading Technology and EM64T Support
- Intel® 7320 Chipset
- 1GB DDR 333 ECC RAM
- 1-channel U320 SCSI Card
- 73GB SCSI Hotplug HDD
- Integrated dual SATA ports
- Integrated Intel® Gigabit LAN
- 52x IDE CDROM Drive/3.5" 1.44MB HDD
- 600W Power Supply
- PS/2 Keyboard & Mouse
- Acer EasyBUILD
- Altos eBusiness ValuePack (optional)

SRP: 108,000 Php
2-year warranty (Parts and Labor)

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- Intel® Hyper Threading Technology and EM64T Support
- Intel® 7320 Chipset
- 1GB DDR 333 ECC RAM
- 1-channel U320 SCSI Card
- 73GB SCSI Hotplug HDD
- Integrated dual SATA ports
- Integrated Intel® Gigabit LAN
- 52x IDE CDROM Drive/3.5" 1.44MB HDD
- 610W + 1 redundant, hotswappable power supply (optional)
- PS/2 Keyboard & Mouse
- Acer EasyBUILD
- Altos eBusiness ValuePack (optional)

SRP: 125,000
3-year warranty (Parts and Labor)

Acer Altos G710
(Dual Processor Capable)
- Intel® Xeon® DP Processor (3.2GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 800MHz FSB)
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- Intel® E7520 chipset
- 1GB DDR2 400 ECC RAM
- 73GB SCSI Hotplug HDD
- Integrated Dual Gigabit LAN
- Integrated 2-Channel U320 SCSI Controller
- Optional iButton to activate RAID on MB (ROMB)
- 550W + 1 redundant, hotswappable power supply (optional)
- Acer EasyBUILD
- Altos eBusiness ValuePack

SRP: 172,000
3-year warranty (Parts and Labor)

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What is Altos eBusiness Value Pack?
Altos eBusiness Value Pack is a bundle of solution software that consist of both CA's (Computer Associates) BrightStor ARCserve Backup for Laptops and Desktops Release 11 (with 10 user license) and eTrust Antivirus version 7.1 (server plus 10 user license).
- BrightStor ARCserve Backup for Laptops and Desktops is a fast, automatic and transparent solution for backing up and restoring data for notebooks and desktops.
- eTrust Antivirus version 7.0 is an enterprise level virus protector with wide virus pattern coverage and unlimited usage.

What is Acer EasyBUILD?
Acer EasyBUILD softwares suite empowers users to easily install, configure and manage Acer Altos Servers. EasyBUILD contains 4 CD's which include the System CD, Resource CD, Management CD and Utility & manual.
- System CD can help you pre-install the related device drivers, so you don't need to insert the driver diskette during OS installation.
- Resource CD contains the related device drivers which has been tested on Altos servers.
- Management CD contains the Altos Server Management software (ASM).
- Utility And Manual CD contains related utility for SCSI, SATA, RAID, and LAN. It also contains user's guide for Altos Servers and components.

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China Bank, partner going into dollar remittances business

By Doris C. Dumlao

CHINA BANKING CORP. IS VENTURING into the overseas Filipino remittance business through a tie-up with California-based East West Bank, the second largest independent commercial bank in Los Angeles.

Through this partnership in cash transfer service, Filipinos and any other interested parties in the US can send money through the branches of East West Bank in California (not related to the local bank owned by the Gotianuns).

The funds will be received by the OFWs' families and relatives in the Philippines through any of China Bank's 140 branches and 200 automated teller machines nationwide, or through door-to-door delivery services.

"This partnership allows for a less expensive and safer way of sending money to and from abroad," said China Bank executive vice president Ricardo Chua.

"According to the National Statistics Office, more than 1.1 million households in the Philippines depend on remittances. We hope to serve their remittance needs through this partnership," he said.

East West Bank International Banking EVP Kwok-Yin Cheng added: "China Bank and East West Bank have the same market niche and together, our clients can benefit much from our combined expertise and service offerings."

The California-based East West Bank is a full-service commercial bank serving retail and corporate clients and has 56 branches in the US and a Representative Office in Beijing, China. It is also one of the largest financial institutions in the US focusing on the Chinese-American community.

China Bank, founded in 1920, posted a 7.7-percent increase in net income to P2.31 billion as of end-September from a year ago on increased consumer lending, record growth in low-cost funds and substantial gains in treasury and trust operations.

This jacked up the bank's return on average equity to 15.1 percent versus 14.22 percent in the same period last year, one of the highest in the industry. The return on average assets also improved to 2.47 percent from last year's 2.44 percent.

Its capital adequacy ratio of 29.74 percent also made it one of the strongest commercial banks in terms of capitalization.

As of end-September, China Bank's total resources stood at P132.14 billion, 17.5 percent higher than the year-ago level of P112.5 billion.

Implement reforms, HSBC urges gov't

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO FOLLOW through on its fiscal reform program to perk up confidence among investors whose "tactical view of the country is negative."

This was what Dilip Shahani of HSBC's fixed income credit research in the Asia Pacific told members of the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry during its regular meeting held at the Peninsula Hotel yesterday.

"A rapid implementation of (Malacañang's) original tax reforms is necessary to keep investor confidence," Shahani said. "Authorities need to redouble efforts to garner public support for fiscal consolidation."

He said the P80 billion in estimated revenues from the expanded coverage of the value-added tax next year was unrealistic.

Shahani said collection might not be efficient enough to meet the target while government expenses were on the rise.

The official said that on the upside, the country has a well-managed external debt profile supported by a stable inflow from overseas workers.

Remittances from abroad compensates for the lackluster performance of exports, which is "lagging in the region and continue to disappoint."

Exporters posted revenues totaling about $40 billion in 2004 and projects to earn about $50 billion this year.

"The lack of capital investment is hurting exports as well as job creation (and this because) policy makers do not provide stability to encourage long-term investment," Shahani said.

He said the status of the government's finances was such that general government debt ratios were at "unhealthy levels" while the government revenue to gross domestic ratio of 14.4 percent was "shockingly low."

"Interest payments consume an alarming amount of total revenues," Shahani said. "The government needs to spend (more) on infrastructure building, improving education and bolstering social services."

He said another major concern was that the government was "still married to the National Power Corp.," whose debts account for the bulk of public sector debts.

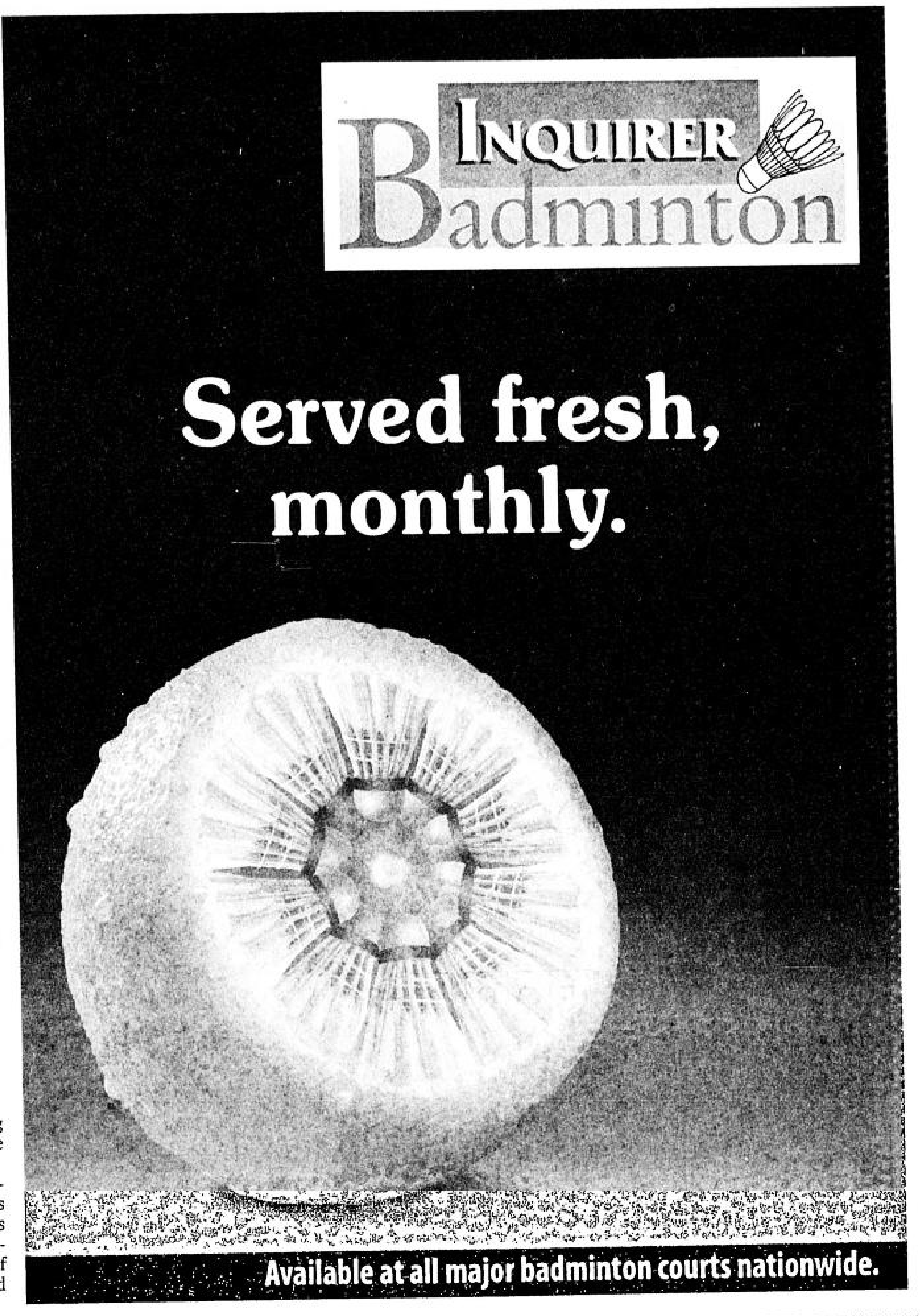
"Government finances are still contingent on its ability to restructure and privatize the power sector and this is due to the lack of policy consistency and discipline to carry out privatization," he said.

Shahani said the government was considered still in the position to provide financial lifeline to the power sector in the near term.

Shahani said foreign investors were worried about public sector debts' sustainability such that credit rating agencies were leaning toward cutting return on profit from Philippine investments.

"Standard and Poor as well as Fitch (are poised to) downgrade the Philippines' rating by one notch to B+ and BB, respectively, if there is backtracking on efforts to improve public sector finances," he said.

Despite this, he said the private sector was humming along with expected growth of tax contribution from telecommunications firms; the property market was still warm; the banking sector was on the mend.



San Miguel . . .

From page B5

come or 11 percent higher than last year's level.

International beer sales were also higher by 12 percent with volumes up by 9 percent. Revenue from SMC's packaging business climbed 22 percent while sales from its food business grew 7 percent.

SMC said in a disclosure that double-digit sales revenue growths were registered across its businesses. Volume gains were maintained in its international beer operations and in the company's water and juice businesses, as well as in the company's food group which also benefited from better selling prices.

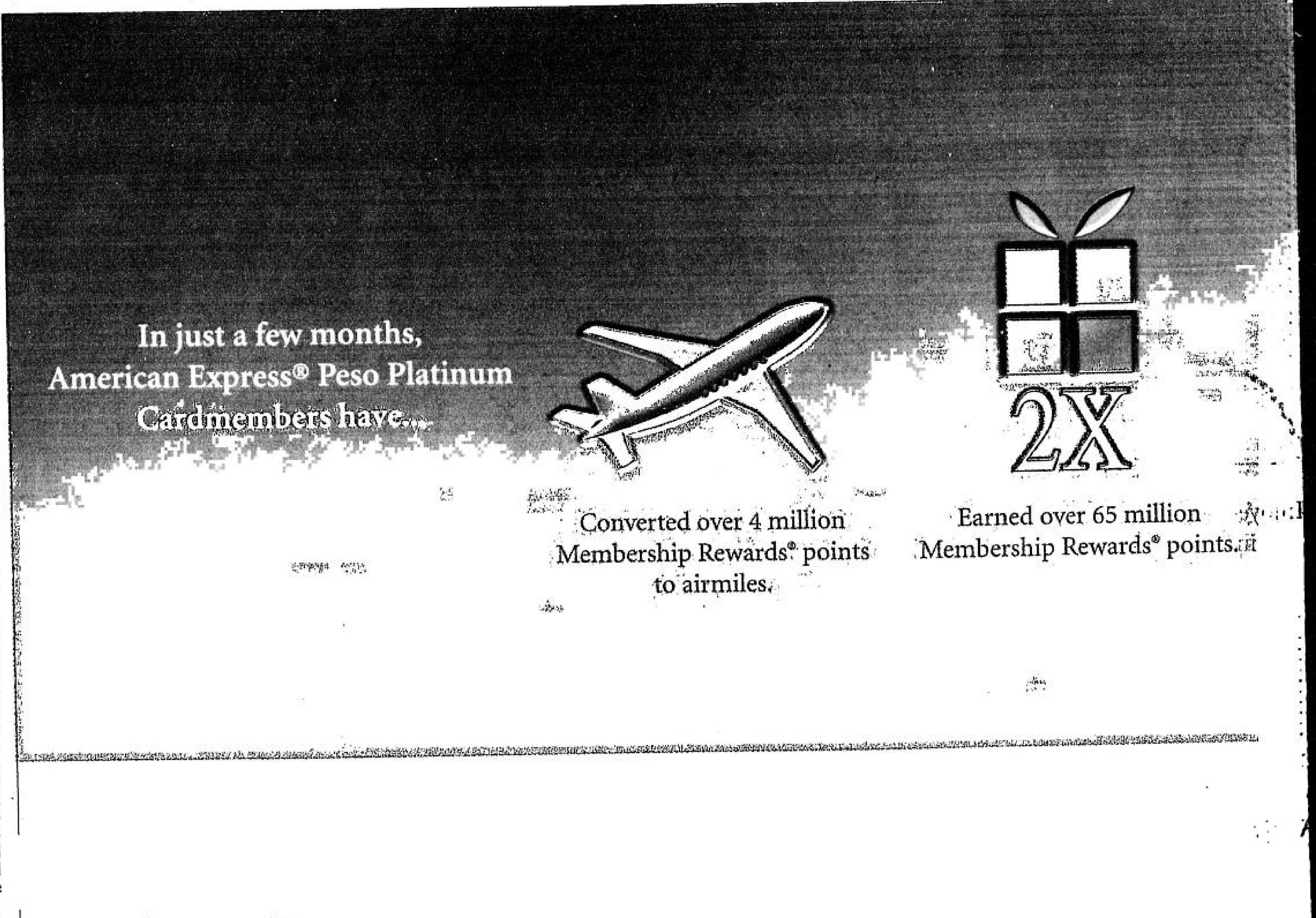
Corporate volume growth likewise remained robust, up 15 percent from 2004. Consolidated operating income reached P12.2 billion, nine percent above the year-ago nine-month period.

Contributions from newly acquired Australian firms National Foods and juice maker Berri Ltd. provided a hefty addition to foreign revenues, which rose by 225 percent or more than triple than that of a year earlier. The consolidation of National Foods beginning in June contributed P15.9 billion in revenue and P1.46 billion in operating income as of end-September.

New programs have been set to add momentum to these gains towards the fourth quarter when the company's major products hit peak sales. To boost Philippine beer sales, for instance, SMC set-up greater link-ups with special events, implemented more consumer promos and launched new brand campaigns to excite the market.

In the liquor business, substantial growth in Gran Matador brandy is helping Ginebra San Miguel Inc. sales volume in the first nine months of the year.

SMC also said it was expecting the Coca-Cola Beverage Group to recover, as programs have been put in place to achieve continuous business process improvement and cost reduction, along with the implementation of trade and consumer marketing programs and new product launches.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US growth seen slower

WASHINGTON—TOP forecasters boosted their outlook for US inflation this year and next, and said economic growth should slow in 2006 as higher interest rates dampen consumer spending, a survey released on Thursday showed.

A majority of economists surveyed by the Blue Chip Economic Indicators newsletter ramped up their inflation forecast, predicting the Consumer Price Index would increase 3.4 percent in 2005, up from 3.3 percent forecast a month ago.

It was the eighth rise in inflation expectations since November 2004, when the consensus was for a 2.4 percent increase.

Price increases are expected to slow to a 3.1 percent annual rate next year, up from the 2.9 percent pace forecast in October.

Higher interest rates, slower housing investment and weaker consumer spending are expected to dampen economic growth in 2006, it said.

Forecasters said growth in US gross domestic product should notch 3.5 percent in 2005 and 3.3 percent in 2006, unchanged from forecasts a month ago.

GDP growth was forecast to slow to a 3 percent annual rate in the final quarter of 2005 from 3.8 percent in the third quarter as growth in consumer spending slows to just one percent—the slowest pace since the second quarter of 2001. *Reuters*

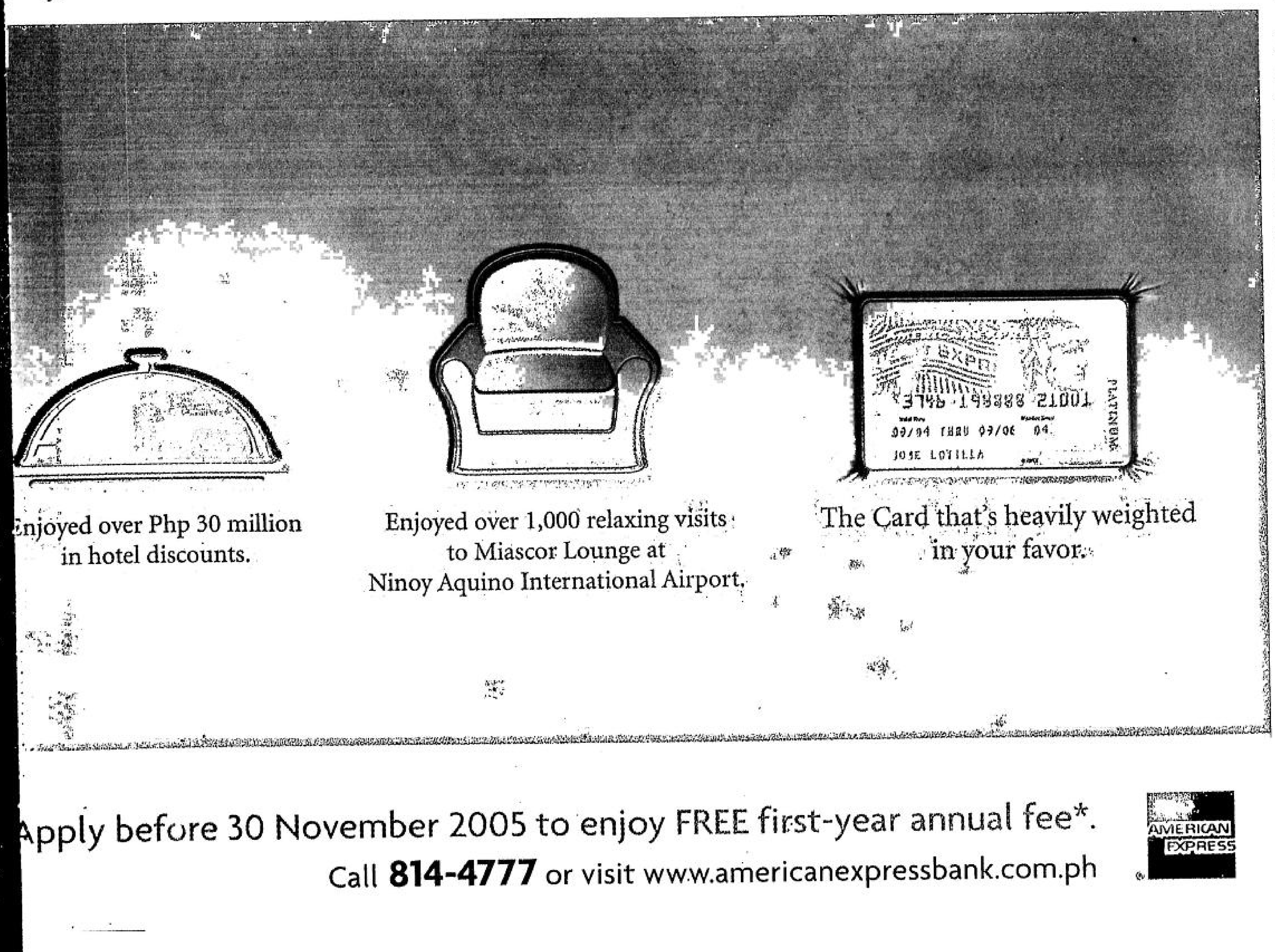
Car maker retains forecast

TOKYO—JAPAN'S Mitsubishi Motors Corp. (MMC) said on Thursday its interim net loss was smaller than it had expected, and signaled that it would break even in the second half as it stuck to its full-year forecasts.

The better net loss of 63.77 billion yen ($542.5 million) was basically in line with the figure reported by business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun a day earlier.

After a recall scandal triggered a plunge in sales in Japan and North America last business year, MMC is crawling back from the scrap heap with improving sales.

Its shares have also benefited, doubling in price since mid-September on anticipation that new heavyweight chief executive Osamu Masuko would produce a successful turnaround along the lines of Nissan Motors Co. under Carlos Ghosn—especially after MMC's recent launch of key new products such as the Outlander SUV and Raider pickup truck. *Reuters*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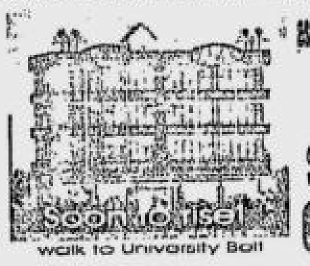

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on November 24, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION		DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
METRO MANILA				
AM-JA-260	Bo. Pinalagad, Malinta, Valenzuela City		42,242 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-90041)	P 20,000,000.00
BULACAN				
AM-RT-261	Lot 1, Blk. 1, Grottoville Homes, Brgy. Gaya-Gaya (now Brgy. Graceville, San Jose Del Monte		49 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-370563) with bldg. & imp.	P 370,700.00
DAVAO	Kristina Homes Subd., Lizada, Toril, Davao City		Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-RT-262	Lot 23	Blk 1	110 m² TCT No. T-347755	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-263	Lot 35	Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347752	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-264	Lot 4	Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347750	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-265	Lot 34	Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347748	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-266	Lot 18	Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347754	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-267	Lot 37	Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347753	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-268	Lot 15	Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347749	P 126,600.00
LAGUNA				
AM-RT-269	Lot 9 Blk. 8, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase 1, Butong, Cabuyao		47 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-616407) with bldg. & imp.	P 229,000.00
NUEVA ECIJA	Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City		Residential lots with bldg. & imp.	
AM-RT-270	Lot 45	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-116963	P 282,600.00
AM-RT-271	Lot 7	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-116962	P 333,800.00
AM-RT-272	Lot 16	Blk 1	100 m² TCT No. T-116960	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-273	Lot 7	Blk 7	100 m² TCT No. T-116961	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-274	Lot 21	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-114462	P 257,600.00
AM-RT-275	Lot 19	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118074	P 273,200.00
AM-RT-276	Lot 13	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118072	P 307,000.00
AM-RT-277	Lot 27	Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118071	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-278	Lot 15	Blk 1	100 m² TCT No. T-118073	P 292,900.00
PAMPANGA				
AM-PY-279	Bo. San Isidro, Minalin		21,408 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-587529-R) with bldgs. & imp.	P 13,900,000.00
CHATTELS				
AM-PY-280	Dalahican Port, Lucena City		M/T "CQS ODYSSEY", an ABS-classed self-propelled coconut oil tanker, welded mild steel hull, single deck, 496.64 tons-GT, 315.36 tons-NT, built 1998, powered by 2-units CATERPILLAR Marine Diesel Engine with standard accessories and navigational equipment	P 78,942,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – November 10 & 11, 2005)

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to Sual and Pagbilao CFTPP Batch II, CY 2006

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance:

Batch II Schedule-Plant	Volume, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php	Bidding Date, Venue and Time
1 – SCFTPP (Spot/Regular)	5x65,000 +/-7%	1,324,232,000.00	Dec. 12, 2005 Pahiyas – 9:30 A.M.
2 – PCFTPP (3-Yr. Long) Term / Performance)	5x65,000 +/-10%/yr.	1,201,200,000.00 (1st Yr.)	Dec. 13, 2005 Pahiyas – 9:30 A.M.
3 – PCFTPP (3-Yr. Long Term / Blending Low Sulfur)	5x65,000 +/-10%/yr.	1,201,200,000.00 (1st Yr.)	Dec. 13, 2005 Pahiyas – 9:30 A.M.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per schedule, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be on Nov. 29, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at Pahiyas Function Room for Batch II, NPC, Diliman, Q.C.
6. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before Dec. 2, 2005 for evaluation and issuance of Class A certification.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
9. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net.com) websites.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Sr. Vice President and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 4 & 11, 2005)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL Pls Call 721-3736

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc. Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of MAY. '05 on NOV. 23, '05 10am • *Lanuza & Sons (PDI - NOV. 11, 2005)*

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit From: Gemma Santos & Family

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificate of Residence / ICR No. 283290 issued on March 5, 1993 at Manila under the name of RAYMOND LOUIS MEYNET was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - Nov 11,18 & 25, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE INESTATE ESTATE OF THE PACITA VALLEJO MENCHACA, A RESIDENT OF SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA, WHO DIED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2005, HAS BEEN SETTLED BY ANTONIO V. MENCHACA BY AN AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION EXECUTED ON OCTOBER 10, 2005 ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC FOR MAKATI CITY MA. RESA S. CELIZ WHO RECORDED THE SAME IN HER NOTARIAL REGISTER AS DOC. NO. 323; PAGE NO. 66; BOOK IX; SERIES OF 2005. (PDI NOV. 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

RUSH SALE
FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
(1) LOT 4, BLOCK 73, PHASE 2
444 SQM & (1) GOLF SHARE
₱1.65 M OR BEST OFFER
426-0094 / 636-1379 / 0917-5203619

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

New MLM www.lamagel.com/rich Czar/Tes 831-1112, 0917-8838088

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

"PART-TIME BUSINESS" Work thru phone Earn up to P20k/mo 376-2644 & 42

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Needs Deliveryman Field Asst single 25yo & blw T-7212997

FEMALE

Urgent LICENSE PHARMACIST MEDTECH 9522670 Helen San Juan Polyclinic

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
820-1592 /825-9947

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

I'm free...

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took his hand when I heard Him call,
I turned back & left it all.

RAMON RAMOS MARTINEZ

June 27, 1931 – November 7, 2005
of Balayan , Batangas

His loving wife **CORAZON PEDRAZA**, children **MEMARIBEL**, **MANUEL** & **Edwina Sombillo**; **MA. ESTELIA** & **Artemio Pantoja, Jr.**, **MARICORA** & **Gonzalo Maningat**, **MARLON** & **Janette Rosemarie Vivas**, **MA. CONCEPCION**, **MAYNARD** & **Eva Magundayao**, **MA. CECILIA** & **MARIA LOURDES**; and grandchildren **Mark Anthony**, **Earlene Audrey**, **Eden Beatriz**; **Maria Dominique**, **John Nicholas**, **John Michael**; **Maria Michaela**, **Maria Monica**, **Mark Angelo**; **Mathew** & **Margaret**; relatives & friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at 121 Fraternidad St., Balayan, Batangas.
Interment will be at Balayan Catholic Cemetery on November 13, 2005, Sunday at 2:00 pm.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." – ***2 Corinthians 5:4-5***

Pedro Monteagudo Dorado Sr.

Born to life : June 15, 1922
Born to Eternal Life : November 5, 2005

A loving caring husband to wife, **IGNACIA**, responsible father and father-in-law to: **NITA & DANNY, ZENY & RUDY, JEAN (†) & AL (†), LOI & VIC (†) JUN & CORA, LYN & RIC, REY & SUSAN**; a joyful and understanding grandfather to **MABEL, CHI-CHI, EHYA, KATHY, TOFFY, VJ, HARRON, VANESSA, VALERIE, GRACE, ARRA, JR, ONNA, RUSSEL, SARAH** and relatives request the readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES, Chapel 2A, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Holy Garden Memorial Chapel Park, Taytay City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on November 13, 2005.

DEATH NOTICE

LORENZO "YENG" C. TARUC

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 9, 2005 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his loving wife **MANTIE** and children **Obeth, Eggie, Emil, Allan** and **Henry**.

His remains lie at his residence at 4227 Diam St., T. De Leon, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be at The Eternal Garden, Caloocan City, the exact date will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Our Dearest Daddy

MARINO F. TOMAGAN SR.

July 18, 1940 – October 27, 2005

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord at the age of 65 in Melbourne, Australia.

His bereaved wife, **Leonie**; children, **Marlene & Jose Uy, Mary Jean & Oriel Vista & Marino Jr.**; grandchildren, **Christian, Jielyna Ann, Jerome, JM & Carl Jian** and other relatives request for prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Tomagan's residence, Calamagui 2nd, Ilagan, Isabela.

Interment is on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at the New Cemetery Bliss Village, Ilagan, Isabela after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel Calamagui 2nd, Ilagan, Isabela.

P/SUPT.

LIBERATO SANTIAGO BALANDANG

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 7, 2005 at the age of 52.

His bereaved wife **Maria Editha Abaya Balandang**; daughter **Marie Grace**; sisters: **Ely & Connie**; brothers: **Boy & Teny**; brothers and sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in prayer for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the PNP Mortuary, Camp Crame, Q. C. until Friday. He will be transferred to his residence at Block 82, Lot 34, Milkweed St., Brgy. Rizal, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday November 15, 2005 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, M. M.

JOSE "PEPE" PAZ GUEVARA

(August 26, 1925 – November 9, 2005)

WIFE: SALOME (†)
CHILDREN: ELENITA, EMMA & CARLOS; **IN-LAWS**: JIMMY, ANGELITO & CORA; **GRANDCHILDREN**: CHESTER, GIA, MELANIE, ERVIN, CARLO, CHRISTIAN, AIMEE; **GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER**: ANGEL

Request for your most gracious prayers.
His remains lie in state at their residence in Lot 9, San Diego St., Malanday, Marikina City.

Interment is scheduled on Sunday 13th of November 2005 at the Aglipay Cemetery Concepcion Uno after the 1 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the
20th Death Anniversary
of

ELISEO A. OCAMPO, SR.

Imus, Cavite and Sta. Rita, Pampanga
who died on November 11, 1985
Masses will be offered today, November 11, 2005 at:

Imus Cathedral, Imus, Cavite .... 6:00 a.m./6:30 a.m.

The Family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P213,150.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and delivery of *DCWD T-Shirts*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

   1 Lot/Package - Supply and delivery of 609 pcs. DCWD T-Shirts ABC: *Php213,150.00*

   Delivery of the GOODS is required by *December 28, 2005*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsiveness Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of *P1,500.00/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 25, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *December 7, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash or Manager's check* and in the amount of *Php 2,131.50*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *December 7, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 (6000)
E-mail add dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. 224-5392
Website www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairwoman

(PDI - Nov. 11 & 18, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No : (02) 5206776, (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/ 9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-12A

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
D1	ADM-05-12043	FORKLIFT TRUCK	1 UNIT	P 2,800,000.00
D2	BAT-05-200	CROSS-ARM, STEEL (VARIOUS SIZES)	1,245 PCS	4,995,000.00
D3	BAT-05-224	OVERHEAD FAULT INDICATOR	90 PCS	3,150,000.00
D4	3LAG-05-12205	FAULT INDICATOR	84 PCS	2,940,000.00
D5	CAV-05-389	TRANSFORMER TEMPERATURE MONITOR	2 UNITS	6,000,000.00
D6	CAV-05-417	WEDGE TYPE CONNECTOR	3000 PCS	5,400,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Date/Time (D1-D6)
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov 14 - Dec 1, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 17, 2005 9:00AM
3. Opening of Bids	December 02, 2005 9:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	December 02, 2005 9:00 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) R. B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BAIS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following items, for use in various INFRA PROJECTS and in the garbage collection activity of this City.

ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1) 1 unit BRAND NEW VIBRATORY ROLLER; Engine : 110 Hp@ 2200 rpm Operating wt. : 12.000 kg. Drum width : 2,100 mm (minimum) Drum diameter : 1,480 mm (minimum) Propulsion type : Hydrostatic, 2 speed drum drive motor and single speed motor on planetary axle with No-Spin differential Drum drive : Low speed, high torque motor Tire size : 23.1 x 26 – 8 PR Articulation angle : + / - 35 degrees minimum Oscillation angle : + / - 15 degrees minimum Grade ability : 50% minimum	P 5,500,000.00
2) 1 unit GARBAGE COMPACTOR, surplus, A-1 condition, 4-tons capacity left-hand drive, diesel engine driven, reconditioned w/ brand new tires including spare tire, new batteries and paint, w/ hydraulic jack & tire wrench and with one year free insurance and registration in the name of City of Bais, with warranty	650,000.00
TOTAL	P 6,150,000.00

The approved budget for the contract is to be taken from the 20% Development Fund. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

In order to qualify, bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Sec. 23.11 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. As such non-submission of the required documents will result in the disqualification of the bidder.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the City Mayor or at the General Services Office, this city starting **November 18, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00).

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **November 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor.

For more information, please call BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (035) 402-3182 or General Services Officer at telephone no. (035) 402-8115.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility, technical, and financial documents each in separate sealed envelopes duly marked as such in the bid box at the Conference Room at the Office of the City Mayor on **December 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.** at which place, date and time said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The City Government of Bais reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

CARMELINO L. MORALES
(City General Services Officer)
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov 11 & 17, 2005)

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

US oil giants tell Congress: We're not profiteers

The heads of five major oil companies appear on Capitol Hill to discuss energy pricing and profits before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The chiefs of five major oil companies defended the industry's huge profits. AP

WASHINGTON—US OIL GIANTS STAGED A vigorous defense Wednesday of the record profits they have been making while drivers around the globe are forced to pay mounting prices at the pump.

At a combative hearing in Congress called to address charges of oil company "price-gouging", oil executives said that huge investment, hurricanes and increasing demand had all contributed to rising prices in the United States.

Lee Raymond, chief executive of the world's biggest energy company Exxon Mobil, also had veiled criticism for the political feeding frenzy over the oil price issue.

"In politics, time is measured in two, four or six years, based on the election cycle. In the energy industry, time is measured in decades, based on the lifecycles of our projects," Raymond said.

But both Republicans and Democrats lined up at the special Senate hearing to assail the companies for making gigantic profits when US drivers are hurting from sky-high pump prices and heating bills are set to soar this winter.

"Is somebody rigging the price of oil?" asked Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Domenici said the Senate Republicans' decision to call the hearing reflected the pressure they are facing from polls which show most Americans suspect oil companies are abusing the market "to line their coffers with excess profits". High petrol prices coupled with expectations of steep heating bills this winter have contributed to a plunge in poll ratings for President George W. Bush.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that Bush—who along with Vice President Dick Cheney is a former oil company executive—shared public concerns about the high prices.

"It is important for all of us, government, private sector, individual Americans, to do their part," McClellan said.

Some Democratic senators are pushing for a windfall profit tax on oil company gains above $40 a barrel. Prices are now just under $60 a barrel.

Republican censure of the energy companies, however, has generally fallen short of calling for a mandatory tax.

Instead the Republicans are encouraging the companies to voluntarily fund federal programmes used to help low-income families pay winter heating bills.

Federal Trade Commission chairwoman Deborah Platt Majoras told the hearing that any law to outlaw gasoline profiteering would be unworkable and counterproductive.

"Price-gouging laws that have the effect of controlling prices likely will do consumers more harm than good," she said.

But Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer said the oil industry's unwillingness to use some of its profits to offset customer bills was a sign of "greed".

"Your sacrifice, gentlemen, appears to be nothing," Boxer told the panel of chief executives of five oil majors.

Exxon Mobil last month reported quarterly profits of $9.92 billion, the biggest in US corporate history. Raymond said there was nothing sinister about this.

"Our numbers are huge because the scale of our industry is huge," he told the senators, stressing that there were no "quick fixes" to the world's energy problems.

Exxon Mobil had made "massive investment" in recent years, he said, while hurricanes Katrina and Rita had been a "one-two punch to the petroleum industry as well as to many of your constituents".

Raymond said the US government can "best help by providing a stable and predictable market environment", and expressed opposition to "hastily crafted" measures such as a windfall tax.

BP America chief executive Ross Pillari said that while the hurricanes' impact had driven up oil earnings, "we made every effort to increase supplies and minimize the extent of the disruptions".

"We do not set or control" the price of oil, added Shell chief John Hofmeister. AFP

SingTel beats Q2 forecasts

SINGAPORE—SOUTHEAST ASIA'S BIGGEST telecoms company, Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel), beat forecasts Thursday as its second quarter net profit rose 5.7 percent on the back of strong contributions from mobile phone associates in India and Indonesia.

Net profit for the three months to September was 809 million Singapore dollars ($479 million), well above analyst projections of S$707-744 million.

For the six months to September, net profit was S$1.605 billion, up 9.5 percent from the previous year.

Operating revenue rose 5.8 percent to S$3.3 billion for the quarter and 6.1 percent to S$6.52 billion for the half.

SingTel said it may not achieve double-digit profit growth for the current financial year ending March "but this remains an objective in the medium-term."

Wholly-owned Australian unit Optus reported an 8.1 percent decline in second-quarter net profit to 150 million Australian dollars ($110 million) because of tougher competition.

Optus said it expects earnings to decline slightly in the current fiscal year as revenue growth may be slower.

The Optus disappointment was in part offset by strong contributions from the Singapore home market as well as from Bharti Televentures in India and Indonesia's Telkomsel.

The "regional mobile (business) is delivering strong and profitable growth, driven by Bharti and Telkomsel," SingTel president and chief executive officer Lee Hsien Yang said.

SingTel's aggregate mobile subscriber base in Asia exceeded 74 million as of end September, up 31 percent from more than 56 million last year.

"The success of our international expansion has created a diversified earnings space. Across our businesses, we have been making significant progress," Lee told a news conference.

In the Philippines, Globe Telecom fell 14 percent to S$38 million while Advanced Info Service in Thailand was down 20 percent to S$59 million due to increasing competition. AFP

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AMID US GROWTH, HIGHER INFLATION

US Fed rates headed higher, no hint on pause

ST LOUIS—THE FEDERAL RESERVE WILL continue to raise interest rates amid strong US growth and risks of higher inflation, with no hint that it is nearing a pause, Fed policy-makers made plain in comments on Wednesday.

"I think the inflation risks around the point estimate are skewed to the high side ... I would put a higher probability on an upside surprise," St Louis Federal Reserve President William Poole told reporters after delivering a speech to students.

"That calls for the Federal Reserve to make sure policy is risk-adverse with respect to that outlook," he said.

"We've been on a course of raising interest rates. The language in the last (Federal Open Market Committee) statement suggests that there was more to come ... If we had wanted a different interpretation, we would have said something different," said Poole.

Although he is not a voting member of the Fed's policy committee this year, Poole is a respected economist and markets believe his views carry weight in its policy discussions.

The US central bank raised rates by a quarter percentage point to 4 percent on Nov. 1 and said it expected to keep lifting borrowing costs at a measured pace.

Markets bet this means three more consecutive quarter point rate hikes to 4.75 percent.

"We should continue that process as long as we have the view that the underlying economy is pretty robust ... and the inflation risks are skewed to the upside," Poole said, adding the timing of any pause would be dictated by how growth fares.

"My position truly is that policy is driven by new information," he said.

Sandra Pianalto, the president of the Cleveland Fed, also pointedly declined to drop any hints that a pause was near.

"Our statement says we are continuing to remove that accommodation," she said, answering questions after a speech in Strongsville, Ohio.

Forecasts for a drop in spending due to a jump in energy prices after hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the US have worried some economists.

There are also signs the rampant US housing market is cooling, with the Fed reporting a slackening in mortgages demand in its latest loan-officer survey.

But Poole said the risks of a sag in either output or employment were "relatively low" and he saw the drop in demand for home loans as evidence that stronger business spending was drawing investment from the housing sector.

"(That softness) is not a sign that economic growth is at risk but a displacement from one sector to a different sector," he said.

US consumers have provided crucial support for the US economy but a significant amount of their spending has been financed by cashing in on rising house prices, either by taking out an additional mortgage or refinancing at lower rates.

Pianalto said consumers had done a good job managing their increasing debt loads by refinancing at the lower rates that have prevailed in recent years.

She acknowledged, however, that households could face a harder time servicing debts as rates rise.

"In the past several years consumers ... have been very diligent in managing some of their debt in terms of refinancing to lower rates, but we'll have to ... keep our eye on this situation as the conditions change," Pianalto said.

In his earlier speech to students of Lindenwood University, Poole said the record US current account deficit would inevitably adjust downwards, but was not at risk of causing a collapse in the value of the dollar.

"I believe the current account adjustment will be fairly slow and orderly, and that it may not begin for quite some time," he said.

Reuters

TRADERS work the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange in New York City. Oil prices dropped Wednesday following a report that crude oil and gasoline inventories rose over the past week but distillate stocks used for heating oil fell, the Department of Energy (DoE) said. Crude stocks rose for the fifth week, by 4.5 million barrels for the week ended 04 November to total 323.6 million, the DoE said.

AFP

Asia tech stocks rising

SINGAPORE—ASIA'S HEAVYWEIGHT TECHnology stocks climbed on Thursday after good profits and a strong showing by the US sector, while platinum reached its highest in a quarter of a century on expectations of strong demand.

Gold climbed too, despite a strong dollar, which stayed near two-year highs against the euro and yen, shrugging off hints from European Central Bank officials about higher interest rates.

Financial bookmakers were calling London's FTSE 100 opening 7-11 points higher.

Asian share markets were little changed. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average rose 0.06 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.12 percent, and MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was up 0.15 percent at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Crude oil continued to ease after weekly US stockpiles data came in higher than expected.

Commodity funds have piled into platinum this week, betting on continued strong demand from jewellery makers and the auto industry where it is used in exhaust-cleaning systems.

Taiwan microchip makers UMC and TSMC rose 4.5 and 1.1 percent, respectively, extending gains that followed the release of their October sales data this week, and after the US Philadelphia semiconductor index rose 1.41 percent in Wednesday's session.

Taiwan's benchmark index rose 0.3 percent.

In Tokyo, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. jumped 3.4 percent on a plan to consolidate its units, and high-tech issues, such as Tokyo Electron, up 2.1 percent, were also among the gainers.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 climbed 0.4 percent with world No.1 miner BHP among the gainers, up 0.4 percent. Building materials group James Hardie fell 4.0 percent after its results missed expectations.

South Korea's Kospi rose 0.6 percent, and Singapore's Straits Times Index fell 0.8 percent. Its biggest stock, Singtel, dipped 1.3 percent after warning it may undershoot its double-digit profit growth target in the current year.

The dollar shuttled in narrow ranges near two-year highs against the euro and the yen on Thursday as dealers awaited trade figures to provide short-term direction for the US currency.

The dollar's yield advantage has helped to lift the currency to two-year highs of 118.38 yen and $1.1710 per euro this week.

The euro was buying $1.1764 little changed from the the level in late New York. The dollar rose to 117.72 yen from around 117.50 yen.

The market shrugged off upbeat comments from top European Central Bank officials.

President Jean-Claude Trichet said the ECB was poised to raise rates at any time to head off inflation risks, while chief economist Otmar Issing was quoted by German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung as saying nearly the same thing.

Traders said the comments failed to spark euro buying as news of arson attacks in Germany and Belgium ignited worries that riots in France might spread to other parts of Europe.

Crude oil futures dipped further following a 1.3 percent fall in the previous session, after a larger-than-expected increase in US crude inventories and as offshore output in the Gulf of Mexico continued to recover from hurricane damage.

Reuters

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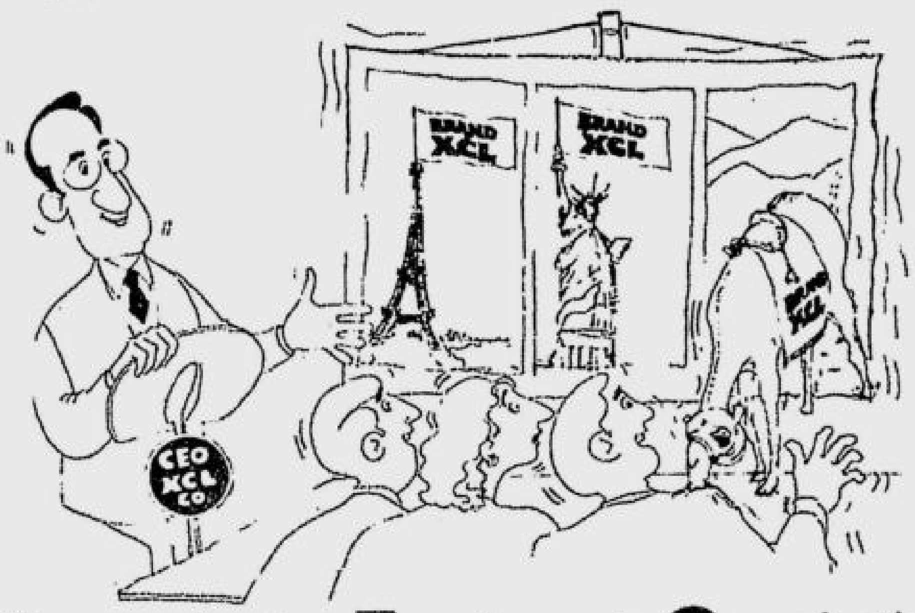

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Foreign investments hit $929M as of Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES LURED $929 million in net foreign direct investments (FDIs) from January to August this year, 70 percent better than a year ago, on bigger investments by the manufacturing sector.

This allowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to meet its full-year net FDI target of $900 million despite remaining political uncertainties.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Armando Suratos yesterday reported that for August alone, net FDIs hit $409 million or 36.3 percent better than a year ago.

He said the bulk of the new investments went into manufacturing, while real estate and services, including business process outsourcing, bagged $81 million and $14 million in net flows, respectively.

Suratos said Hong Kong and the United States were the biggest sources of investments.

The FDI record was based on the country's balance of payments as tabulated by the BSP, measuring actual flows that came in during the period as opposed to mere pledges.

FDI flows represent investments in capital and labor-intensive businesses, such as factories.

For the first eight months of the year, Suratos said net equity capital was up by 47.6 percent to $912 million compared with $618 million last year owing to higher equity placements and lower withdrawals.

Suratos said the "other capital" component of FDI flows—comprising of inter-company borrowings between local investee companies and their foreign direct investors—likewise contributed to the growth in net FDI flows in the first eight months of the year.

The BSP expects to end the year with at least $900 million in net FDIs, 80 percent better than the $500 million recorded in 2004, despite continuing political uncertainties.

It factored in big ticket investments planned by the private sector in the power and manufacturing sectors as well as mining, following a Supreme Court ruling favoring the entry of foreign investors into the mining sector.

In manufacturing, which accounts for about 70 percent of the country's industrial output," the electronics and food subsectors attracted the biggest foreign investments.

UK bullish on RP prospects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BRITISH FIRMS REMAINED BULLISH ON THE Philippine economy with the British Embassy organizing the "first-ever British-focused trade show in the country" to bolster trade and investments between the two countries.

"We are here to do serious business and we are here for the long-term," British Ambassador Peter Beckingham said during the opening rites of the three-day fair dubbed The UK Show.

About 40 British firms are taking part in the exhibition, which was organized with the help of London-based Standard Chartered Bank, which has been in the country for 133 years.

"The Philippines has much to offer in terms of tourism and openness to foreign investors," Beckingham said. "British companies find (the country) an easy market to operate in, easier than some other markets."

The envoy said there were between 250 and 300 British companies operating here, including big multinationals and small mom-and-pop operations.

Interviewed on the sidelines of the show, Beckingham said most British firms were carrying on with their businesses and that these were unaffected by the political turmoil in the country.

"The United Kingdom has made $17.2 billion in investments in the Philippines over the last 10 years," he said. "We would like to see more opportunities for (British capital) here."

Major UK investments here are concentrated in power, energy, agri-business, transport, water and financial services.

Firms taking part in The UK Show include Asian Terminals Inc., Dunlop, HSBC, Marks & Spencer, Speedo, Jaguar, Pru Life UK, Pilipinas Shell, GlaxoSmithKline and The Body Shop.

Beckingham added that the balance of trade between the UK and the Philippines was "promising and has always been in the Philippines' favor."

Data from the embassy's UK Trade and Investment Section show that the UK shipped to the Philippines £316.2 million or about P3.2 billion in 2004.

In the same year, the UK imported from the Philippines £671.2 million worth of local products.

Cebu Pacific cuts plane fares, starts price war

By Clarissa S. Batino

CEBU AIR PACIFIC, THE COUNTRY'S SECOND-largest carrier, is taking its cue from foreign budget carriers and has further cut its plane fares, a move seen triggering a price war in the airline industry.

Dubbed Go fares, Cebu Pacific claimed passengers would realize as much as P1,000 to P2,000 in savings for every leg.

A flight to Cebu from Manila can be as cheap as P999 against the regular fare of P1,998; Manila to Roxas will be as low as P600 from P2,569.

These tickets are limited, however, and will be available only to those who will book weeks ahead of the flight, as is the style of the foreign budget carriers.

Cebu Pacific already charges fares at 5-15 percent cheaper than its competitors, but said it was going the route of other low-cost airlines, thus the even lower fares.

The lower fares do not include fuel and insurance surcharges and the 10-percent value added tax.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the new airplanes added to its fleet consume 45 percent less fuel.

The savings are passed on to travelers in the form of cheaper tickets.

The company now uses four, brand-new Airbus planes with two more arriving next month.

By the first quarter of 2007, it will have 12 new planes.

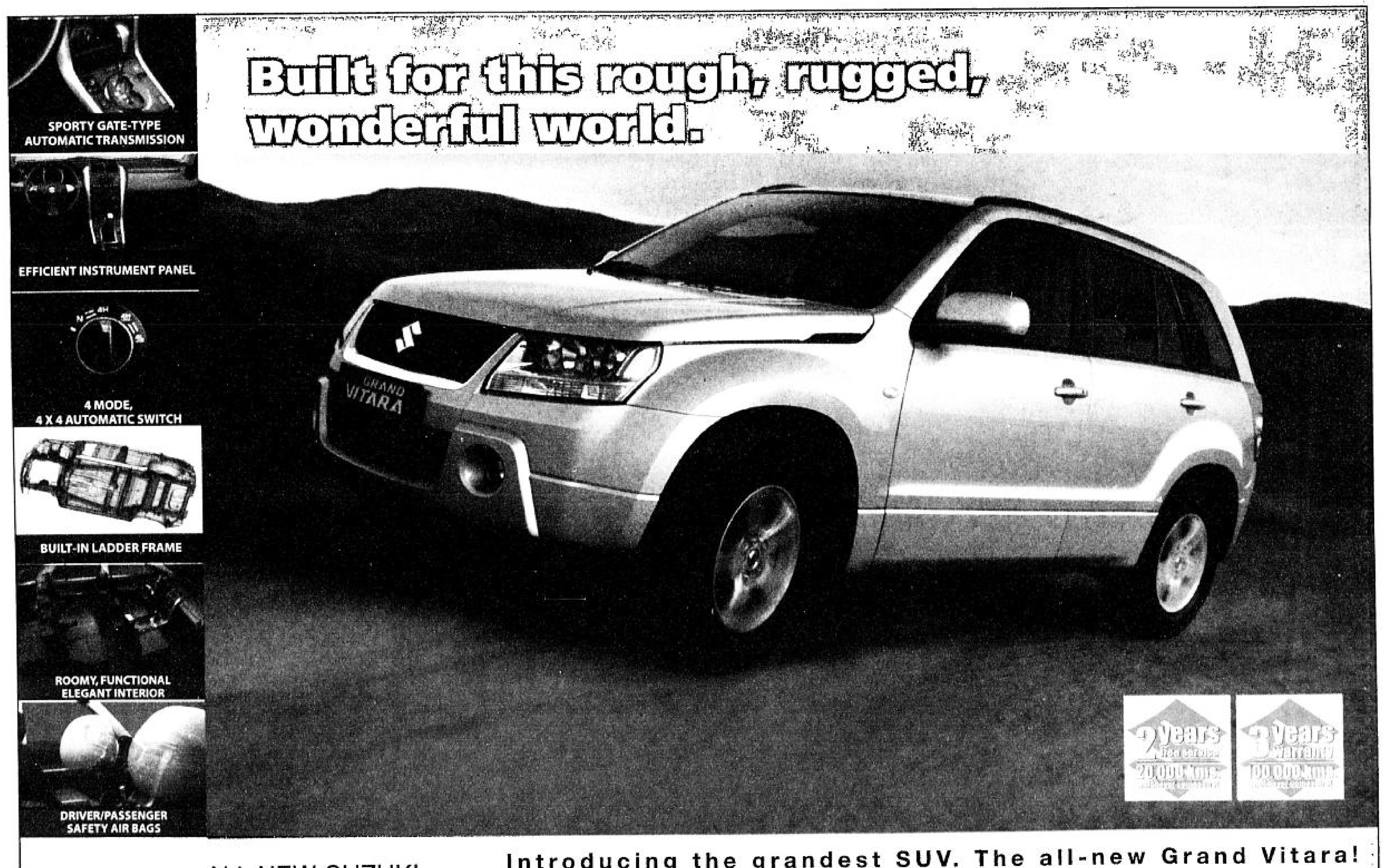
Also by next year, the carrier will adopt a similar budget pricing for its international flights, Gokongwei said.

With the new low-cost pricing adopted from no-frills airlines worldwide, the Gokongwei-owned carrier expects at least a 36 percent improvement in its volume and a 20 percent growth in revenue.

This year, the airline expects to carry two million people to different local and overseas destinations and post P8 billion in revenue.

The new pricing scheme is counted on to stimulate demand and create new markets, not just for the company, but for the local airline industry, which is dogged by high fuel costs and increasing prices that affected sale of airline tickets.

"This is all about getting people to think about flying. For those already flying to travel more, and for those who haven't flown to start doing so," said Gokongwei.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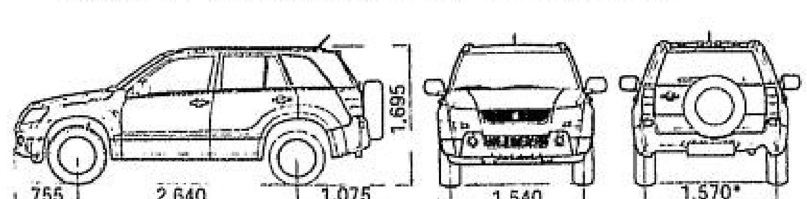

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Ad agencies set sight on the world

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

MORE LOCAL BRANDS and fastfood stores are setting stalls in the global markets - Jollibee, Bench, Red Ribbon and San Miguel Beer are out there.

Multinational companies are generating advertising campaigns for their brands from regional "creative centers", be it from advertising agencies in Thailand, Malaysia or Singapore. Sometimes Philippine ad agencies get a crack at it.

The local ad industry scores low in global advertising award shows like Cannes, Clio, D&AD, The One Show, and even in the Asia-Pacific Advertising Festival.

Getting ready for the world

Advertising agencies have decided not to sit back but ready themselves to pitch against the best in world. This desire " to be a global ad person" was confirmed in a survey conducted by the organizers of the Philippine Advertising Congress among members of the ad community.

Meryl Graham-Schlachterman, chair of the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress set on November 16 to 18 in Cebu at the Waterfront Hotel says "there is a need to participate in the global arena, we can't get away from it anymore".

She expects the congress sessions to provide the answer "if we are ready for global responsibilities. It will be an honest assessment of our capability and our ability to be a global player. In the mind of an ad practitioner, there is a push and pull feeling. We are always on the brink."

"Being positive is a heightened reality. There is so much that the Philippines has".

The theme for this year's congress: "Ready for the World?!" with an interrobang punctuation mark.

Over 2,000 advertising, marketing, media professionals and students have registered for this gathering.

The "call for registration" advertising campaign was made by Campaigns & Grey entitled "Refresh the Philippines" and the telemarketing efforts of BCD Pinpoint. Delegates will be given their electronic I.D. cards before they set off to Cebu. The Proximity Card holds an electronic chip with the delegate's photograph and personal details. It also gives them access to all the conference sessions and meal halls.

Registration, according to Alvin Manacsa, Chair of the Administration Committee, should be much faster when they reach Cebu—approximately 3 minutes per delegate.

The organizing committee, composed of prominent advertising practitioners, is committed to "providing content over just fun" in the 3-day event.

The business sessions will cover two days with the last day devoted to industry bonding activities.

Venus Navalta, chair of the

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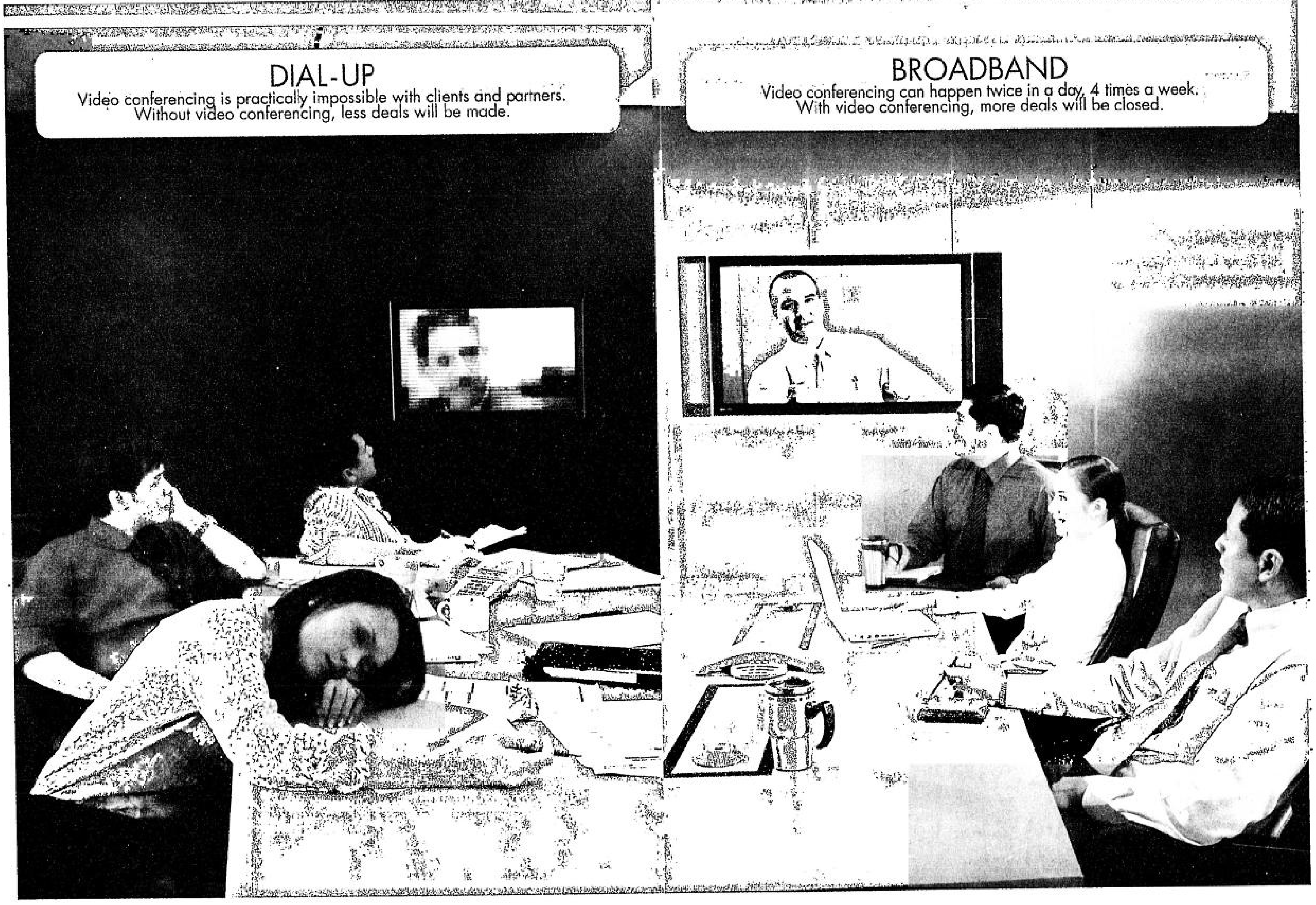
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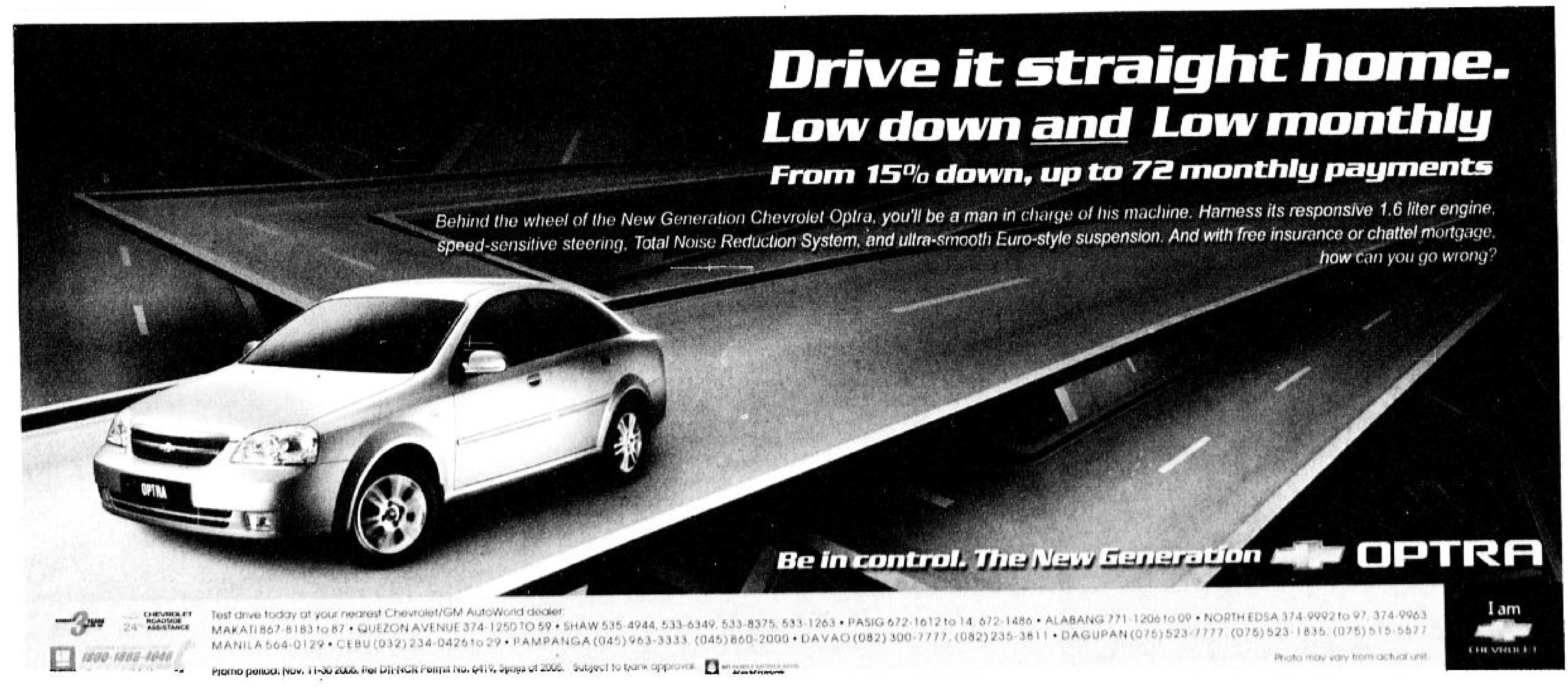
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Asean tourism forum to boost Mindanao teconomy

THE 25TH ASEAN TOURISM Forum (ATF) in Davao City on Jan. 13-21, 2006 is expected to significantly boost the economy in Mindanao and prop up investor confidence in the region and the rest of the Philippines.

This projection was made by the Department of Tourism (DOT) based on the huge contribution of tourism to Mindanao's economy that will further benefit from the influx of ATF participants from the 10 member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the wholesale travel trade buyers from all over the world, all translating to thousands of foreign and local visitors flocking to Southern Philippines during that nine-day event.

Toursim Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano said tourism contributed substantially to Mindanao's expanding economy, which posted growth rates of 4.4 percent in 2002 and 4.5 percent in 2003 and consistently accounted for around nine million of national employment.

Durano also noted that investment opportunities constitute a major attraction for both foreign and domestic tourism, and vice-versa.

A 2004 Mindanao Economic Performance report from the Mindanao Business Council cited remarkable increments in the region's air and sea transport volumes in terms of both passengers and cargo because of increased tourism activities, particularly in Southern and Central Mindanao, which posted more than 1.2 million foreign and domestic tourists.

The international airport in Southern Mindanao's tourism and investment hub—Davao City—recorded around 1.4 million incoming and outgoing passengers in 2004 while hotel occupancy rates even posted a 6.5 percent increase in the January-June 2005 alone from its year-ago level.

At an average length of stay of 4.5 days at an average daily expenditure of P4,250 per day, Davao City alone generated some P5.22 billion in tourism receipts for a 13 percent increase during that period.

The impact of these developments can be felt throughout the region's economic landscape, especially in the food, transport, hotel, resort, entertainment, recreation, retail and services sectors.

"On a national scale, such increments contribute significantly to the much-needed growth in the country's gross domestic product and the government's poverty alleviation campaign," Durano said.

The ATF is a cooperative regional effort to promote the Southeast Asian region as one tourist destination and support the individual tourism pursuits of the Asean's members—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Promoting seamless intra-Asean travel, the ATF is supported by the Philippine Airlines as head of the organizing body's air transportation committee, TTG Asia Media Pte. Ltd. as travel exchange organizer, CNN as official international cable and satellite media partner, and Travel Weekly, TTR Weekly, and TTG Asia as official trade publications.

ATF 2006 will include a travel trade fair that will be staged at the NCCC Exhibition Center, and a series of conferences, business meetings and other functions slated in the city's various first-class international hotels and resorts during the event's nine-day run.

Accommodation inquiries may be directed to atfdavaohousing@yahoo.com.

Surviving stress of business travel

WORLD BANK EXECUTIVES AND EMPLOYees represent the new breed of business traveler. In the year 2000 alone when it organized a symposium on business travel, the organization sent 5,000 employees from its Washington D.C. headquarters on more than 18,000 overseas trips logging in 250,000 person-days away from home.

It also discovered through a study that bank employees who travel frequently are 300 percent more likely to see a physician or other health professional compared to employees stationed in the office.

Business travel is highly stressful, according to Patty Pronove-Henson, card marketing head of American Express Bank Philippines. "The executive on the road must deal with a number of discomforts: the hassles of getting through airports, flight changes, altered eating and sleeping patterns, loneliness and alienation in a foreign culture; disruptions in family life with women travelers feeling a greater sense of predeparture stress. All of that on top of achieving the objectives of the trip. And we know that stress is inversely proportional to one's physical and emotional health."

Armed with these insights, American Express created the Peso Platinum Credit Card to appeal to business travelers among other select niches. Grace D. Limjap, card acquisition head said, "Card members can have access to experienced travel counselors and concierge service 24/7 by phone." Before the card member leaves the country, the travel counselor can customize the travel plan with the flight schedules and land arrangements tailored to the client's needs. The counselor can also provide visa requirements for each country to be visited.

The travel counselor can charge all related travel expenses to the card member's Peso Platinum Card and deliver the tickets to the card member. In Philippines, travel services are provided by the American Express official travel service representative, Adventure International Tours Inc.

The concierge can do restaurant and golf recommendations and bookings, hotel referrals, gift delivery and even medical and legal referrals when needed.

VILLASENOR

Charlie Villasenor, president and CEO of Transprocure, considers his Peso Platinum Card his "second passport." Riding on the wave of business processing outsourcing, his company does the backroom procurement work in the Philippines for a number of Fortune 500 companies, a job that entails constant visits to clients and conferences within the region.

When he travels, said the procurement expert who is sought after in the international speaking circuit, "I prefer to use this American Express Card because of its wide acceptance by hotels as well as train stations in most parts of the globe. I also enjoy the privilege of free access to the Miascor Lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport."

The joys of travel are reserved for tourists—not executives on the global run who according to the Traveling Healthy newsletter, double in number every decade. As their numbers increase so do their exposure to health hazards particularly from ground and other local transportation in developing countries, reports the Travel Health Guide.

Dennis Valdes, COO of Print Town, one of the largest and most sophisticated printing facility in Philippines, learned first-hand this truism while on a business trip to India this year. While visiting a number of ink plants in India, he was involved in a helicopter accident that fractured one of his lower vertebrae.

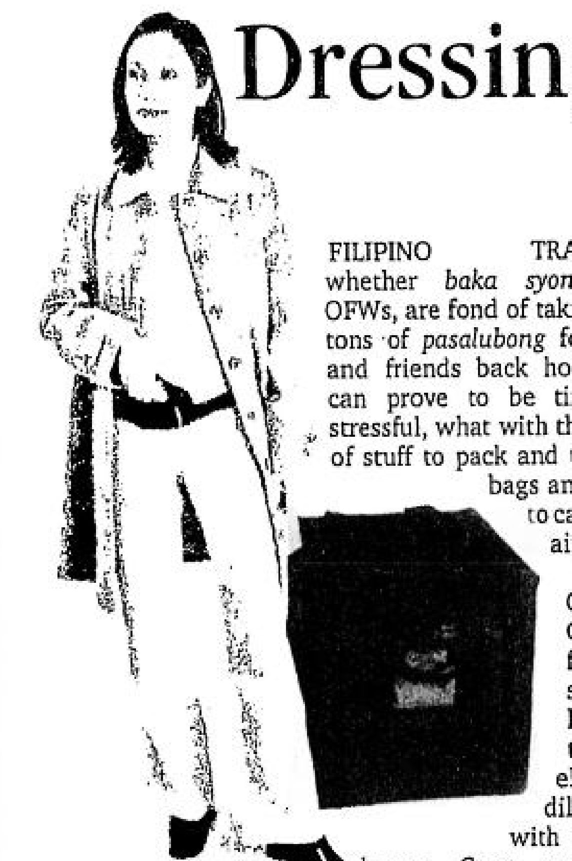
Stranded in a hospital in the Indian countryside 200 km away from the nearest metropolis, the local doctor suggested surgery to insert titanium rods which he claimed would facilitate healing of his lower back. The option was deemed as way too aggressive by Valdes' Philippine doctors who recommended that he simply lie on his back for a month.

Valdes recalls that he may just have succumbed to surgery had he not been immediately transported back home with the help of his mother-in-law. She used her American Express Platinum Card to mobilize an emergency evacuation by air ambulance to pick him up from India and bring him home to the Philippines to recuperate in familiar surroundings. "I had already lost 10 pounds over three to four days in the hospital in India because the food—consisting mostly of beans and bread—was strange to me."

Valdes recalled his smooth and well-managed journey home. He was anaesthetized as the plane was about to leave the runway in India. He awoke from a deep sleep just at the right moment—as the ambulance was touching down in Manila—with a strange craving for Thai noodles. He later discovered that his craving may have been because the air ambulance had refueled at Bangkok where the crew enjoyed phad Thai. He may have subconsciously wanted to share that meal. Valdes was never more grateful and happy to be home.

Soon after he got back on his feet, Valdes became an American Express Peso Platinum card member.

Dressing up the 'balikbayan gear'



ITS A stylish solution to the traveler's dilemma.

FILIPINO TRAVELERS, whether *baka syonistas* or OFWs, are fond of taking home tons of *pasalubong* for family and friends back home. This can prove to be tiring and stressful, what with the bundle of stuff to pack and the many bags and parcels to carry to the airport.

Boma One Corp. offers a stylish solution to this traveler's dilemma with its Balikbayan Gear pack-and-go items. Its flagship product, the Balikbayan Box Cover (BBC), is an innovative bag made of heavy-duty polycanvas, a carry-all for the balikbayan box and contents. The BBC is perfect for *pasalubong* cardboard boxes and meets size guidelines for airline luggage. Its durable features are designed to seal items more tightly for better handling, even while in transit.

Reinforced seams are placed in critical parts of the box cover to bear even those heavy imported goods. The hassle-free "zip up and go" packing (and unpacking) of the BBC is ideal for those last-minute purchases or at the airport when your luggage is found overweight. You can also ship your balikbayan boxes in style. Available in ten colors, the Balikbayan Box Cover also accommodates standard luggage locks to prevent loss of items, rendering your cargo tamper-free.

"We also have other smart travel accessories for a stress-free flying experience such as travel straps for your *pasalubong* boxes to forego those ugly ropes and tape, travel pillows, travel hip packs, convertible tote bags for those unplanned purchases, jewelry organizer and global organizer to hold your valuables—passport, wallet, cell phone," enthused Marielle Valdez-Fong, managing director of Boma.

The complete Balikbayan Gear product line are at SM Megamall . Balikbayan Gear products are also available at Rustan's Filipiniana, Ace, True Value, Duty Free Home Office, SM Filipiniana, Kultura Stores, Office Warehouse, Box It Right, SM Luggage, SM Workshop, Robinson's Handyman, Federal Hardware, and Tesoro's.

Ad agencies set...

From page B2-1

Programs Committee, adds, "For the first time, we will have breakout sessions to cater to different industry interests" such as creative, media and brand.

Local and foreign speakers have been invited to help the delegates see the way forward. Sessions will start with keynote speaker, Jamie Augusto Zobel de Ayala on "Selling Brand Philippines" followed by Emily Abrera, chair emeritus McCann and Peter Wallace of the Wallace Business Forum who will tackle "Filipino Culture: Why We Show What We Show in our Advertising".

Michelle Kristula-Green, President of Leo-Burnett Asia-Pacific will present "Miss Understood. She's Not Buying Your Ads". Ding Salvador, Managing Consultant of Lamoyan Corporation takes on "How Challenger Brands Can 'Eat Big Fish'".

A creative session "Going Global by Being Local" will be handled by two Cannes Gold winners Kitti Chaiyaporn, ECD of Publicis Thailand and Prasoon Joshi, Regional CD of McCann-Erickson South-East Asia. John Merrifield, Chief Creative Officer of TBWA Japan, creator of the multi-awarded Adidas "Vertical Football" outdoor billboard, will share his Cannes experience in the session "Learning from Cannes".

"Brand Archetypes ; How to Capitalize on the Power of Myths to Propel Your Brand" will be handled by Poonam Kumar, Regional Director of Needscopes, TNS. "Emerging trends & Best Practices in Outdoor, Mobile, Internet & Gaming", will be discussed by Ariel Haroush, CEO Outform Media; Mon Lizardo, VP, INQ7; Dennis Mendiola, CEO, Chikka; and Ben Colayco, GM, Level-Up.

"The Battle for the Vanishing Consumers: the Future of Media" will be taken on by Jamie Lord, Marketing & Business Development Director, Mindshare, Asia Pacific. "Marketing Through Entertainment" has speaker, David Flack, SVP for Creative & Content of MTV, Asia-Pacific.

Gregory Ho, Advertising Director Asia Pacific of AXN. Rupert Howell, President, McCann Worldgroup Europe, Middle-East, Africa will take on the topic "Successfully Managing the Communication Agency of Today". "CEO Forum: Getting Ready for the World" will be moderated by Nonoy Niles, of AC Nielson Asia-Pacific with panelists RJ Esteban from MORES; Dodie Lucas from ASAP; Yoly Villanueva-Ong representing the 4As; Johnip Go Cua representing PANA; Atty. Felipe Gozon representing Media. More sessions will be held under the Creative, Brand, and Media modules.

Best ads on show

Delegates will have the chance to see the best ads in the world through the screenings of this year's Cannes winners, this part of the "Cannes in Cebu" portion hosted by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The Araw Awards, the most celebrated creative advertising competition in the country, will cap the 3-day advertising event.

Search on for top young marketers

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE country's top young leaders in marketing and entrepreneurship in the 1st Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA). YMMA seeks to acknowledge young achievers in marketing and entrepreneurship, inspire young people to be innovative entrepreneurs and brand builders, and pave the way for a business-oriented society.

Professionals or practitioners, 35 years old and below, who have proven leadership and expertise in the said fields are qualified.

YMMA chair Josiah Go, an entrepreneur, marketing practitioner and business educator, said private business will spur economic recovery, growth, and prosperity.

The YMMA has two main categories whose respective awardees will vie for the overall Young Market Master Award. The marketing category is open to practitioners who were instrumental in improving their company's position to become at par or better than competition. They must have developed a brand in a sustainable manner. They are known as marketing manager, brand manager, trade marketing manager and account manager, among others.

The entrepreneur category, meanwhile, is open to the owner or part owner of an enterprise. The nominee must be a key participant in the business. He or she must have started an enterprise with a new or enhanced product or service that made its mark in the industry.

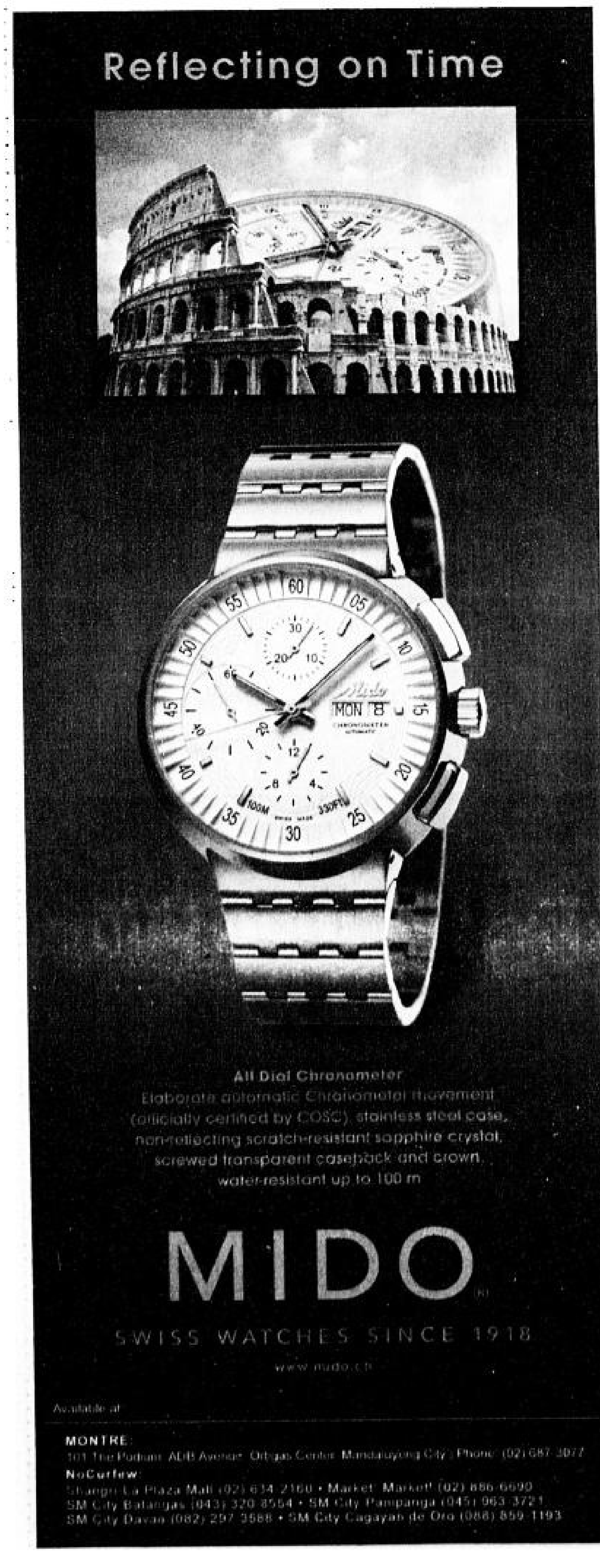
The two main categories will be further divided into several industry groups that will likewise be recognized such as consumer products, services, business-to-business, and advocacy.

The 2005-2006 YMMA is the initial staging of the awards supported by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA).

YMMA also has TNS Trends, a market research company with over 24 years of experience, as the award's official research partner.

Corporations, groups and organizations, and individuals of good standing can nominate young professionals and practitioners to the YMMA. As a public service program organized by Mansmith and Fielders Inc., there will be no fees or other subsidies collected for the awards. The submission of entries is on Oct. 28-Nov. 25, 2005.

Interested parties may call 722-23-18 or visit www.mansmith.net to download the brochure and application form.



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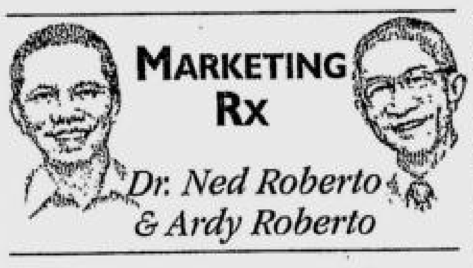
Which to spend time and money on—advertising or distribution?



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I WORK FOR A MULTINATIONAL COMpany that's a common name in household appliances such as TVs and refrigerators. It's less known as a producer of batteries and flashlights although it's been doing this for over 30 years.

We've used various dealers and distributors to handle the sales and distribution of our batteries and flashlights. In contrast to our appliances department where there are several competitor brands, our battery and flashlight department has only one competitor. This competitor is the pioneer in the battery industry and has been and still is the market leader.

How do we overcome a strong pioneer competitor?

We have been trying to outsell our competitor for the past 30 years now. The farthest that we were able to get was a 30 percent market share although this ratio is still under debate.

Product tests of our battery brand among consumers indicated a five percent average better quality in terms of power versus competitor. And our battery brand is competitively priced at five percent lower. But these advantages have not contributed much to our sales. We are experiencing our worst sales since 2000.

To reverse our fortune (or misfortune), do we launch a massive advertising campaign and promote our brand as our competitor has been doing?

This advertising notion has always been a "secret" topic at our sales meetings. It's a "secret" because we discuss it only among colleagues. Our management is against the idea of having an advertising campaign at this time. Our bosses say that we should concentrate first on improving our brand placement and distribution before we undertake any aggressive advertising campaign. They believe that a premature advertising campaign would only benefit our competitor and will further lower our brand's competitive status.

So how can we improve our sales without an advertising campaign? Is it possible to launch an effective placement campaign even without an advertising support?

Apply best practices

A: Wow. We feel for you and your dilemma. Perhaps you can consider a transfer to the refrigerator and TV brand department of your company. Study what makes those brands successful and then go back to batteries/flashlights and apply the best practices that you've learned.

If that's not practical right now, then we propose to diagnose your "ailment" as a marketing mix problem. That's because your overall concern is sales and market share. As you know, sales and market share are a function of all 4Ps of the marketing mix, and all working together. Advertising and distribution or advertising alone and distribution alone can't get you to your sales and market share target.

So let's start with the "base P" of your marketing mix, namely, your product. Ask: "Does your brand have a positioning in the consumer's mind that's superior versus competition?"

It's critical to consider positioning as a consumer behavior and not only as your behavior as a marketer. You position your brand but so does the consumer. These two positioning do not always converge. If your consumer positions you differently from your positioning of your brand, what should you do?

If you have the "throw-away" money and time to convince consumers to converge with your positioning, then do so. That's what Procter & Gamble calls "market development." In other words, you're developing the market for the brand positioning you want. This typically involves what P&G has termed as "throw-away" money. If you don't have this kind of market development resources and time—and you need to react quickly, then you can't be "market-driving." You have to be "market-driven." That means that you have to converge with your target consumer's positioning.

Positioning

Five percent better quality? Does anyone really care?

Your positioning claim seems to be superior battery "power." We suppose that's your R&D or laboratory people talking. They've measured that superiority at "five percent more power" versus the competitor market leader's. Here are the two basic considerations that you have to carefully take in reassessing this "superiority" positioning.

First, what's the product differentiation value to your target consumer of a five percent more power? For the target consumer, is that perceptibly different? Just consider your most saleable variant: the AA 1.5V pen light battery. Let's assume a usage life of one quarter of 13 weeks. In terms of usage life extension, a five percent more power translate to an extension of not even one more week but only two-thirds of a week. Is that a usage life extension that's perceptibly different to your target consumers and therefore qualifying as a satisfying and delighting value? If you want the actual consumer evaluation of this, do a consumer home usage test of your brand versus competitor and find out how many consumers saw a perceptible difference.

Second, is "battery power" still a motivating priority consumer value? As you know, you don't position on something that's not of priority importance to your target consumer. When all competing brands have satisfied a priority product value, that priority value ceases to be motivating even if it remains as the most important or top priority value. It becomes a "minimum requirement" product value. That's a fundamental motivation principle of Maslow who said: "A satisfied need no matter how high will not motivate." So find out from your product test and get the consumer answer to this question: "Is battery power now a minimum requirement product value?"

Change strategy

If you find that your "five percent superior power" is to your target consumers: not a perceptibly superior product differentiation value or distinctiveness, and/or now a minimum requirement product value, then put a stop on this positioning strategy. Instead, search for some other true consumer perceived value of distinctiveness ... of course, if any. If you can't find any, then accept your parity position in the consumer's mind and move on to locate your superiority in the other marketing mix's Ps. Remember, market leadership can be attained for even a parity product by excelling competition in any one of the other 4Ps. Consider Unilab. Almost all its products are parity products (to the doctors and consumers) but many of its brands attained market leadership by superior pricing and/or superior availability.

If the perception is parity, then you can differentiate yourself with the 'little things.' Why not offer batteries in different colors. How about blue, pink, orange, yellow colored batteries? Women and children might buy them just because they look 'pretty.'

Advertising vs distribution

Before proceeding to your advertising versus distribution question, let's first tackle your other felt competitive advantage: your "five percent pricing advantage"? Again, ask yourself: "To your target consumer, will this count as a perceptible significant difference?" Consider again your best selling variant: the AA-R6-Size-1.5V. Its 4-pack SKU retails at about P45.00 or P11.25 per piece. At five percent less, that gives your target consumer a 55 centavo discount or cuts the per piece price from P11.25 down to P10.70. So, is 55 centavos a perceptible significant saving for your target consumer? What is your target consumer's "tipping point" savings? Why don't you find out from your price sensitivity testing? [The senior MRxer has developed in his User-Friendly Marketing Research book a robust one-question price sensitivity testing technique that you can include and add as just one more questionnaire item in your quarterly or semestral UAI survey. Or you can do this testing yourself with buyers of your brand at your Pareto retail accounts.]

It's useful that we now call the other Ps in the marketing mix aside from the base P, Product, as support Ps. These three support Ps are promotion (made up of advertising, sales promotion, and selling), placement (or distribution), and pricing. This is a useful re-categorization of the 4 Ps because depending on the situation and industry, one of them can do the marketing functions of two or three other support Ps. Consider, for example, the marketing of ethical prescription products in the pharmaceutical industry.

The med rep (representing the promotion variable of selling) does not only do detailing (selling to the doctor). He or she also serves as the advertising media and the sales promotion media. The med rep does the advertising media job because he/she performs the reach and frequency task with the target audience of doctors. The med rep does the sales promotion media job because it is the med rep who also provides the doctors the incentives to prescribe or recommend the detailed brand now and not later, which is the essence of the sales promo function.

In your particular case, ask: "Which one of the two can do the two marketing tasks of advertising and distribution?" You should think of your current problem in terms of this question because it's clear that top management does not have the budget to support both of these two marketing efforts at the same time.

This thinking is related to your question: "Is it possible to launch an effective placement campaign even without an advertising support?" If you benchmark against past best practices and the evolving marketing trend, the answer is a strong "yes." We're certain that you've seen many products succeed by supporting their distribution efforts not with mass advertising and promo but with trade or store A&P. The marketing trend is in fact in favor of in-store A&P. The rising power of retailers and the take-over of category management (that is, marketing at the store level) have both contributed to this trend. More and more, we are witnessing consumer decision to buy a brand being intercepted at point-of-purchase, inside the store by competitors enticing the switch.

So it is distribution that can also take on the advertising and promo functions. Advertising does not perform and has not successfully performed the distribution task. The logic of these two marketing mix Ps also tells us that distribution must come first before advertising. We've all heard the saying: "If advertising succeeds in getting consumers to buy your brand but your brand is not available, that's lost sales forever."

Distribution and availability are the first order of business in a marketing campaign. This is the compelling business logic of your bosses when they insisted that marketing "first concentrate on improving brand placement and distribution before undertaking any aggressive advertising campaign." Think about it and learn this marketing mindset.

Lastly, take a second look at your market segmentation. Remember the new generation definition of marketing? Marketing = STP x 4Ps. STP is the segmentation process.

What is the most market attractive segment for your type of battery? You must agree that your battery's regular and heavy users are the mass consumer segment. You won't make money in a mass consumer segment if you're not widely available. It's a small-margin market and to be profitable, you go after volume. And volume comes from mass distribution. Here's the other compelling reason why, when asked to choose between advertising and distribution for your priority support P, distribution takes precedence over advertising. If you ever want advertising support, then go not for mass media advertising but for trade or store A&P. It's now the era of trade promotion. Learn trade promotion and learn to harness its sales generating and market share winning power.

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. Shalom!

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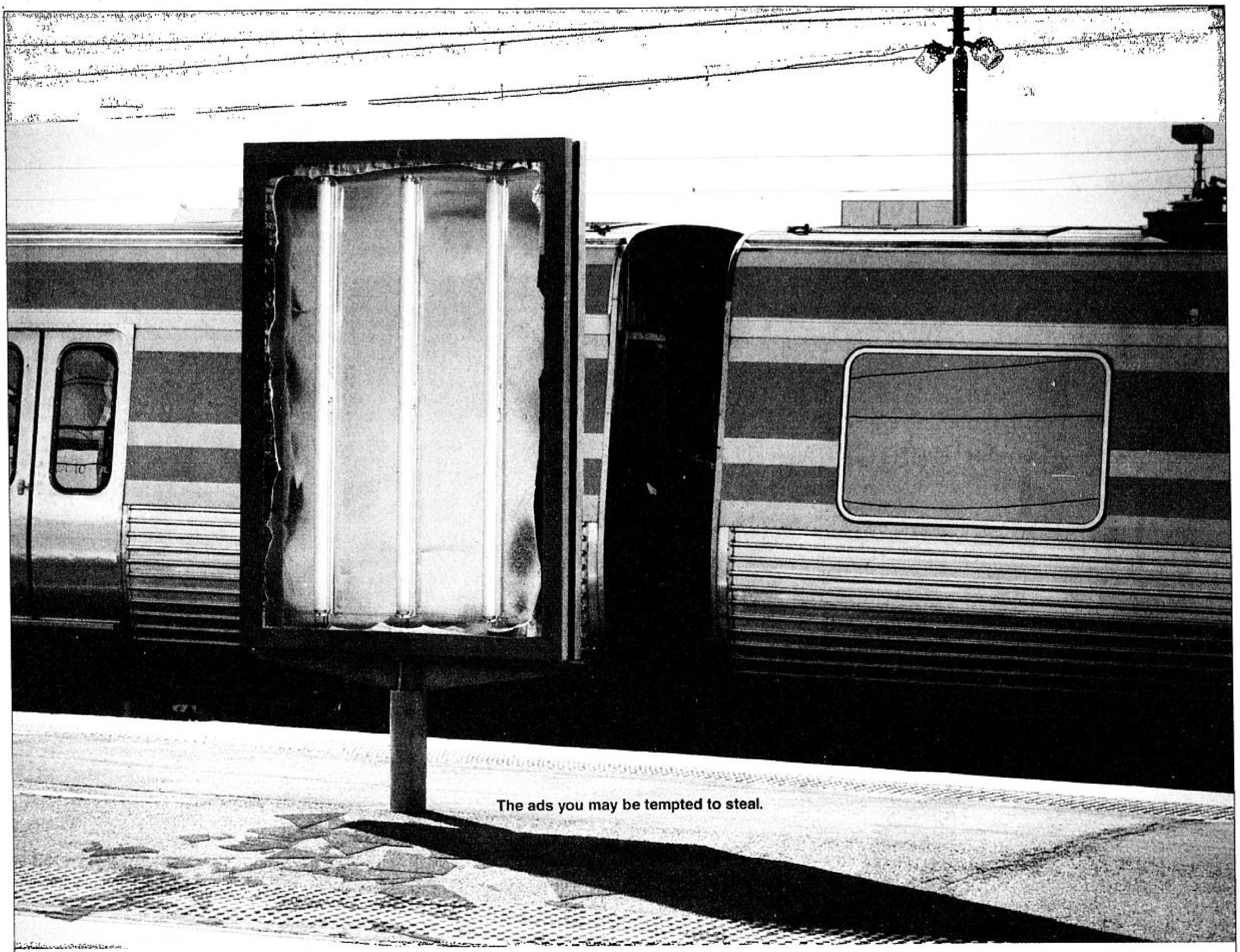

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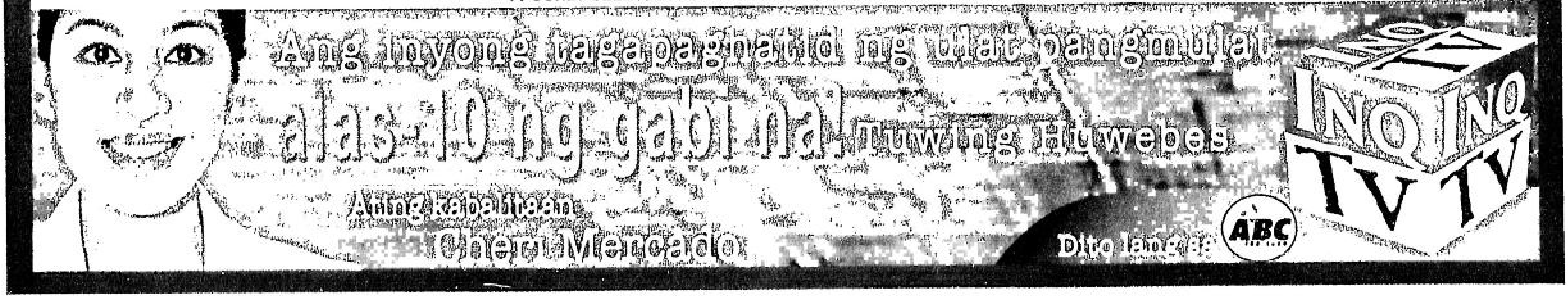
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kameo		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Real Stories	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hoteller	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kalokohan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								The Batman	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Buzzworthy	Mush		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		Wade Robson Project	Trippin	Pop Up	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Goals!	Pool/ Snooker World Pool Trick Shot Masters '05				Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Goals!	Nfl's Greatest Moments	Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		2005 Asian Volleyball C'ship Men S-Finals				Davis Cup 2005		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		NBA Game Detroit Pistons @ Phoenix Suns					RTC # 10
Sports Plus						NFL 2005						Raceworld		Lock & Load	BD Hawaiian Tropic	Inside the PGA	The Tour C'ship Highlights		Golf Hawaii 2004
Cinemax		Bad To The Bone			Greedy (4:45 PM)				A Perfect World (6:45 PM)					Tears Of The Sun				Blue Demon	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Judging Amy		She's Too Young			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlikative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Secrets To Survival		The Most Extreme		American Chopper		Wild Science				Crime Night	
National Geographic		TattooTouch, The Forgotten Sense		Sacred Skin		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Amazing Moments		True Face Of Hurricanes			
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All-New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Fight On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector/ Miss Earth		Angel		Friends	Ultimate Force
AXN		24		24		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season II)		WRC 2005: Rally XS Australia	E Buzz	Double Vision					BMM
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Mars Attacks!				Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Motives (2:20 PM)		Innerspace (3:45 PM)				Her Alibi (5:40 PM)			Mary Reilly (7:15 PM)				Raiders Of The Lost Ark				Gattaca (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Shadow Of Fear (4:05 PM)			Santa Clause 2 (5:35 PM)				Snow Dogs (7:20 PM)			The Waterboy			Species		
Cinema One		Tatlong Mukha Ni Rosavima				Kailangan Kita				Home Along Da River				Jamies Barako Ng Maynila				Abel Villarama Armado	
EWTN	Deep Conversation, Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.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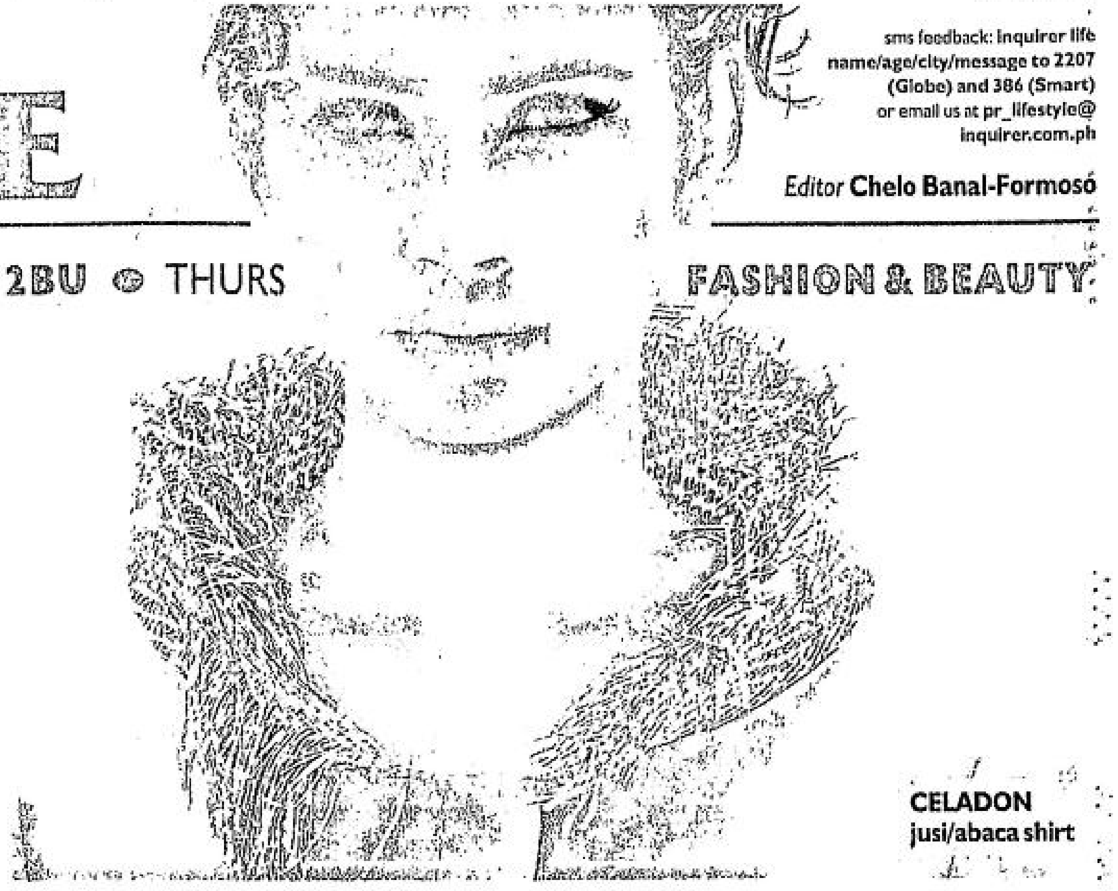
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formosó**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURS **FASHION & BEAUTY**



CELADON jusi/abaca shirt

SILK DENIM

Goulbourn tests the limits of fabric design

This RTW pioneer has been through a lot. Her life is an interesting tapestry

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

JEANNIE GOULBOURN HAS been through a lot as a designer, businesswoman, mother, indeed as a person. And I've seen her go through a lot.

Only months after her daughter Natasha's sudden death three-and-a-half years ago, I spent an afternoon doing a cover shoot with her. It was obvious then, even to bystanders, that Jeannie could hardly come to terms with the pain and the loss of her young daughter, one of only two.

Grief has different effects on people: Some clam up, others talk incessantly. At that time Jeannie belonged to the latter. Her friends were always there, whatever time of day or night, to listen to her.

That afternoon, I listened to her, spellbound, as she narrated how she had been "in touch" with Natasha, how she felt her presence in places where they had been together, and finally on the 40th day after her death—when in Filipinos' belief system, the dead are said to be moving on from their earthly existence—Jeannie had her final encounter with her daughter right in their home.

She said then that she had been assured by Natasha that the girl was all right and moving on, yet that it wouldn't be the final goodbye between her mother and her. If Natasha had moved on in her journey, I wondered then how Jeannie would in hers, or if she even could. It's not easy to lose a child at the peak of her life.

Today, I realize that somehow Jeannie has moved on in her journey, rather bravely and creatively. In fact, tonight, with her daughter Katrina, she will present the collections they've spun and woven from silk produced in their factories, in "Tapestry," a title most apt to describe Jeannie's journey in her design career and in life. Her life is a tapestry of creations and relationships.

Have faith

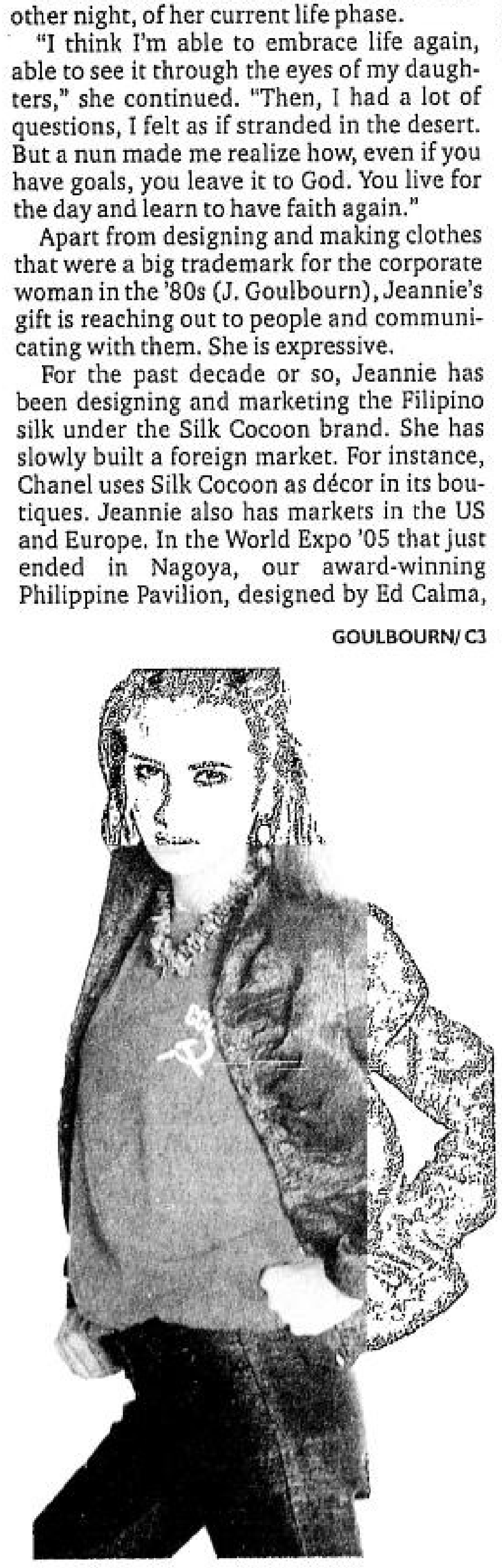
"I think I am healed," Jeannie told me the other night, of her current life phase.

"I think I'm able to embrace life again, able to see it through the eyes of my daughters," she continued. "Then, I had a lot of questions, I felt as if stranded in the desert. But a nun made me realize how, even if you have goals, you leave it to God. You live for the day and learn to have faith again."

Apart from designing and making clothes that were a big trademark for the corporate woman in the '80s (J. Goulbourn), Jeannie's gift is reaching out to people and communicating with them. She is expressive.

For the past decade or so, Jeannie has been designing and marketing the Filipino silk under the Silk Cocoon brand. She has slowly built a foreign market. For instance, Chanel uses Silk Cocoon as décor in its boutiques. Jeannie also has markets in the US and Europe. In the World Expo '05 that just ended in Nagoya, our award-winning Philippine Pavilion, designed by Ed Calma,

GOULBOURN/ C3



SILK denim jacket and slim pants

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See flyers for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2738 Series of 2005

MANILA'S Five Loveliest 2006: Nina Gomez, Angela Medalla, Christine Napoles, Erica Marquez and Cristalle Ranillo

PROUD parents of the Five Loveliest: (standing) Eric Marquez and Ricky Gomez, Philip Medalla (guardian of Angela M.) and Mat Ranillo III; (seated) Nini Marquez and Beth Gomez, Pinky Medalla, Janet Napoles and Linda Ranillo

New lovelies, great Ilonggo food fest, and new resto

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

I GUESS BY NOW, *PALANGGAS*, YOU'RE ALL aware of the charity-oriented Love 14 Foundation, a very dedicated and well-known charity organization which will present this year's selection of "Manila's Five Loveliest 2006."

The candidates are young misses possessed of beauty, brains and breeding. **Nina Gomez** is a 24-year-old graduate of AB Humanities with professional certificate in Management and Master of Science in Management from the University of Asia and the Pacific. She's a senior product assistant of Addict Mobile and AMP.

Erica Marquez, 22, is an accomplished ballerina with the Philippine Ballet. She holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Marketing Management from De La Salle University. She's a marketing consultant of Marc 2000 Corporation.

A breath of fresh air, **Angela Medalla** is a 21-year-old student at De La Salle, taking up BS in Early Childhood Education.

Christine Napoles, 21, is a consistent dean's lister of the College of St. Benilde where she's majoring in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs.

And **Cristalle Ranillo**, 23, is a third-year student of Ateneo de Manila University, taking up Interdisciplinary Studies-Psychology and Communication Arts.

It's the 17th year of Manila's Five Loveliest.

As in the past, the foundation hosted a dinner at the popular Mezze resto in Greenbelt 2, dahlings, for the new batch, their parents, and past winners.

Seen at the dinner were Love 14 Foundation officers and directors such as **Nini Licaros**, chair, and **Naty Pappas**, president.

Cinderella's glam lady, **Therese Santos**, the club vice president, and **Nini Valdez**, the foundation secretary, were also present.

Nov. 16 will be the chi-chi grand gala night, at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel, natch!

The foundation is super-grateful to Roberto Coin Jewelry and Smart Infinity, for the cool partnership that has made this must-go-to event possible, *palanggas*.

Iloilo feast

At last, one of my favorite cities in the south finally landed in Cosmo Manille, *palanggas*, and *moi* made sure not to miss this first-of-a-kind happening.

There, we discovered loads of excellent, yummy delights from Iloilo. The "Makaon Ta!" (as in, Let's Eat!), the Iloilo Table Feast, is ongoing until this Sunday, Nov. 13, at InterContinental Manila's popular Café Jeepney. The Iloilo goodies are served, buffet style, during lunch and dinner.

Check out the fab Iloilo Food Festival during lunch, Monday to Sunday, and during dinner, Monday to Saturday. Call 8159711 for reservations.

New branch

Have you been to the eye-catching, new Italianni's Restaurant at the ground floor of Bldg. A in SM Megamall?

When I breezed into the place, I saw the striking murals depicting rural scenery and quaint streets of Italy, the interiors combining Old-World charm and turn-of-the-century looks.

Invitees that evening definitely enjoyed a taste of "la dolce vita" in Italianni's biggest branch so far. It's an awesome 400-seater resto with new features like the popular Gelato Corner, and the Paneterria and Café, dahlings.

Hotshot heads of the Bistro Group of Restaurants, such as **Williams Stelton, Tony Rufino, Vince Carlos, Jack Rodriguez** and **Jomari Gerochi**, welcomed their guest of honor, the new Italian ambassador, **Reubens Fedele**.

Circulating with the invitees, *palanggas*, were loads different GMs and managers of Friday's, Italianni's, and their newest baby the already popular Fish & Co., the latest member of the Bistro Group.

The invitees couldn't get enough of the "abbondonza servings" of fab-tasting Italian-American dishes and wines, *palanggas*.

Needless to say, the new Gelato Corner was a tremendous hit. We enjoyed nonstop sampling of about 20 Italian gelato flavors, made in-house, natch.

As for giveaways, it was the—mmm—freshly baked Ciabatta or Tuscan bread from the Paneterria.

Hey people, next time you want to have a real good Italian-American dining experience, either for breakfast or anytime of the day, there's Italianni's to go to, *di bala*. And yes, it's easy on your wallet, *palanggas*.

BISTRO Group's Tony Rufino and Lisa Ronquillo

DEDICATED Love 14 Foundation board members: Virma Vergel de Dios, Donnie Ramirez and Helen Ong; (front row) vice president Therese Santos, director Becky Garcia, 2005 chair Nini Licaros, secretary Nini Valdez, president Naty Pappas and director Chacha Camacho

ANTON San Diego, Bibing Montelibano-Villanueva and Ramon San Agustin

WHAT'S On and Expat writer Lourdes Acosta

MANILA Bulletin's Ethel Timbol and Daily Tribune's Resty Vergara; (standing) food writer Claude and Mary Anne Tayag, Food Magazine managing editor Cherrie Mijares and guest chef Maridel Uygongco of Amigo Terrace Hotel in Iloilo

HOTSHOTS of the Bistro Group of Restaurants doing the opening ribbon-snipping. Sergio Licup with wife Cristina L., Vince Carlos, Mimi Jorge, Italian Ambassador Reubens Fedele and Rep. Jacinto Paras

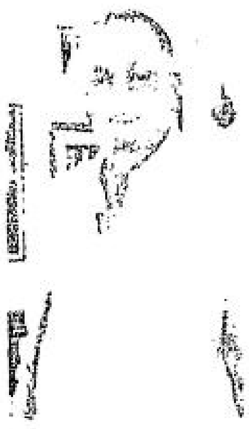
CARMEN Stelton and Tina Carlos

SHIELA and Dax Carlos

AT INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's "Makaon Ta!" Iloilo Food Festival: (standing) Hotel GM Christian Pirodon, director of public relations Jenny Peña, director of marketing Carmela Bocanegra and executive assistant manager Francis Concepcion, with guests Ambassador Alberto Lopez, food writer Michaela Fenix and her sister Jocelyn Fenix

BISTRO Group's Jack Rodriguez

BISTRO Group's Jojie Alcantara



WILLIAM Stelton

OUTBACK operating partner Ed de los Reyes, corporate chef John Cu-Unjieng, T.G.I. Friday's director for operations Robert Santos and Italianni's director for operations Paul Manuud

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Wedding fair and launch of one-stop shop set

GOINGS ON

ELEGANT PARTY VENUE PATIO Victoria, located at 5435 Gen. Luna cor Victoria Streets, Intramuros, Manila, will hold "Milestone at Patio Victoria Bridal Fair" on Nov. 12 and 13. The first 10 couples to avail of the venue and catering package will receive free hotel accommodations and signature frames. Patio Victoria will also launch its One Stop Bridal Shop at the fair. Call 5278006, 5236940 or 6261953, or e-mail patiovictoria5434@yahoo.com or log on to www.patiovictoria.com.

CONFERENCE. The 4th National Conference on Alternative and Natural Medicine, with the theme "The Power of Natural Healing," will be held Nov. 13-16, Subic International Hotel; Nov. 20-23, Iloilo City; and Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Davao. Organized by the Philippine College for the Advancement in Medicines (PICAM) headed by Dr. Carmencita Yap, in cooperation with the Philippine Institute for Traditional and Alternative Health Care headed by Jenny Dy-Liacco and the Department of Health, the conference will present the latest natural approaches to healing. Call 3732141 or 4118450.

ACTIVITIES. Starland Theme Park and Resort offers arts and crafts lessons this month: Family day fun and activities, Nov. 13; the Homemade Projects workshop featuring interesting projects made from domestic materials, Nov. 20; workshop on creating one-of-a-kind artworks from tissue paper, Nov. 27. Starland is at 4/L Metropolis Star Alabang. Call 8504283.

PERFORMANCE. Paco Park presents "An Evening of Fine Music" tonight at 6. Performers include pianist Ernesto Ballesteros Jr. and PWU College of Music dean Harold Galang. Admission is free. "Dance Concertantes" on Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Call 3027374.

BAZAAR. Vintage Bazaar at Rockwell Tent, Power Plant Mall is set on Nov. 12 and 13, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

ORIENTATION. U.S.-based feng shui consultant Roberto Tseng Vicente will conduct a free orientation on QiPi, the ancient practice of environmental planning which harmonizes nature and the environment to increase opportunities for success, vitality and prosperity on Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Serenity Healing Center 5B Gen. Capinpin St., Antonio Village, Pasig City. Call 6345058 or text 0917-8997603/0918-9010825.

SEMINARS. CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills (Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and Conducting Successful Negotiation (Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

DANCE COMPETITION. Robinsons Galleria presents a special screening for Chicken Little Dance competition on Nov. 12. The competition is set on Nov. 19 coinciding with the spot mask-making contest which will be held at the Fountain Area of Robinsons Galleria, 3 p.m. Winners in the dance competition will get free tickets to the advance screening of Chicken Little on Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m., at Robinsons Movieworld Cinema 6. Call 6836100 loc. 780, 782 or 137.

BAZAAR. GMA Network's Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping offers exclusive finds at bargain prices on Nov. 25-27, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at the World Trade Center. The bazaar will feature fashion items and accessories, food items, Christmas décors and novelty items. The event is supported by the GMA Network, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Centrex, The Foreign Post, Morelatto, Citibank and Pier One. The event will benefit the projects of the GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani and Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundations. Call 6870654/3292.

Goulbourn tests the limits . . .

From page C1

used Silk Cocoon as wall paneling for the huge dome.

While her Silk Cocoon has gained a market for interior design, Jeannie has been working hard to make her silk fabrics suited for gowns. It looks like she's finally making a headway in this.

She combines silk with other fabric variants, not only abaca now, to make it versatile enough for clothes. In "Tapestry," you'll see silk combined with even paper, or woven into gazar. It helps that she has an Italian buyer for blouses and a New York buyer for wedding gown fabrics.

Big news

What should be big news in the show is her silk denim, or silk chiffon with abaca, the crispest organdy and organza. She's out to show the wide range of Filipino silk, from the pure softest silk to sculptural silk stiff enough to combine with wire. What we also like to see is her silk taffeta she dubs as "taffeta soufflé"—it's glazed, looks like you applied nail polish on it.

In the late '70s for my interview with Hanae Mori, I made it a point to wear a J. Goulbourn fully cut-out embroidery blouse. In the middle of our interview, the Japanese fashion icon—the first Japanese fashion designer to penetrate the French haute couture industry and make a name in the world—took a pause, gave my cotton blouse one good look and asked where it was made. At that moment, I felt proud to be Filipino and felt proud of Jeannie.

Yet she didn't rest content with her signature cut-out embroidery and RTW niche.

Sometime ago she told me she couldn't consider herself a real designer until she wove her own fabrics or could dictate to a miller. Now she is doing just that—designing fabrics and blends with farm and factory workers. Tonight at Ayala Museum we're seeing her tapestry of fabrics for fashion and the home.

Remember, however, that Jeannie's tapestry of life is just as intriguing and interesting, if not more.

'In' party place

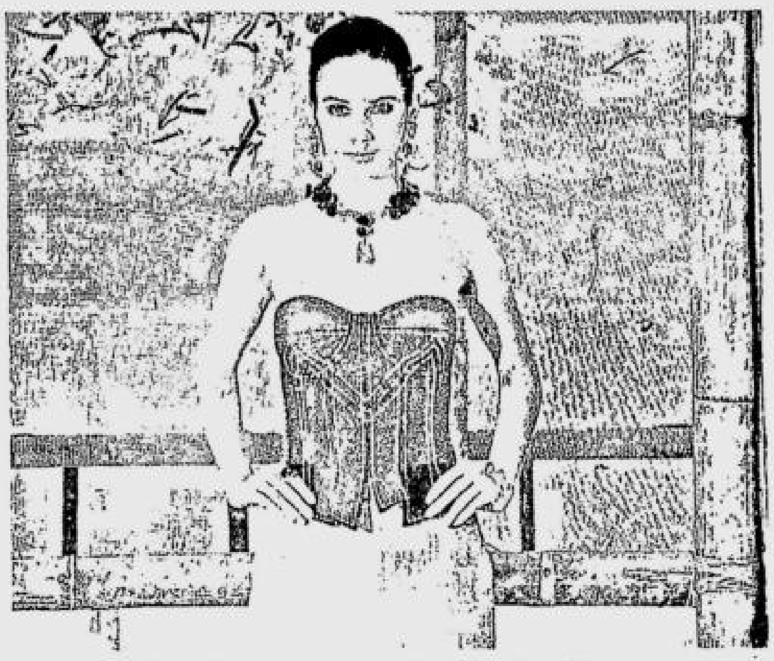
Talk about a new "in" place to have a party. It's the new San Lazaro race tracks in Carmona, Cavite, where Jeannie had her birthday party a few months back. The venue has immense possibilities for a high-energy, hip scene.

At a recent small dinner, we ran into Leo Valdez who's back in town after yet another memorable stint in "Miss Saigon." Leo was still flush from a most touching sendoff he got from Mr. Macintosh and the cast in Nottingham, England, where "Miss Saigon" ended its tour. They surprised him with a post-performance party and musical where the cast sang numbers just for Leo. He was teary-eyed on the eve of his departure for Manila, recalled Leo who came to our dinner in a black Alexander McQueen trench and—envy him—low-rise jeans.

Anna Bayle comeback

We learned that Anna Bayle, the only Filipino supermodel, is planning a comeback in fashion. Anna, who lives in New York, has spent the last decade looking after her son, Callum. The supermodel turned super mom—diligent and fastidious about child care. Now that Callum is a bit grown up, Anna can return to fashion, even on the ramp.

Email the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com



DENIM bustier with handstitch detail and leather skirt

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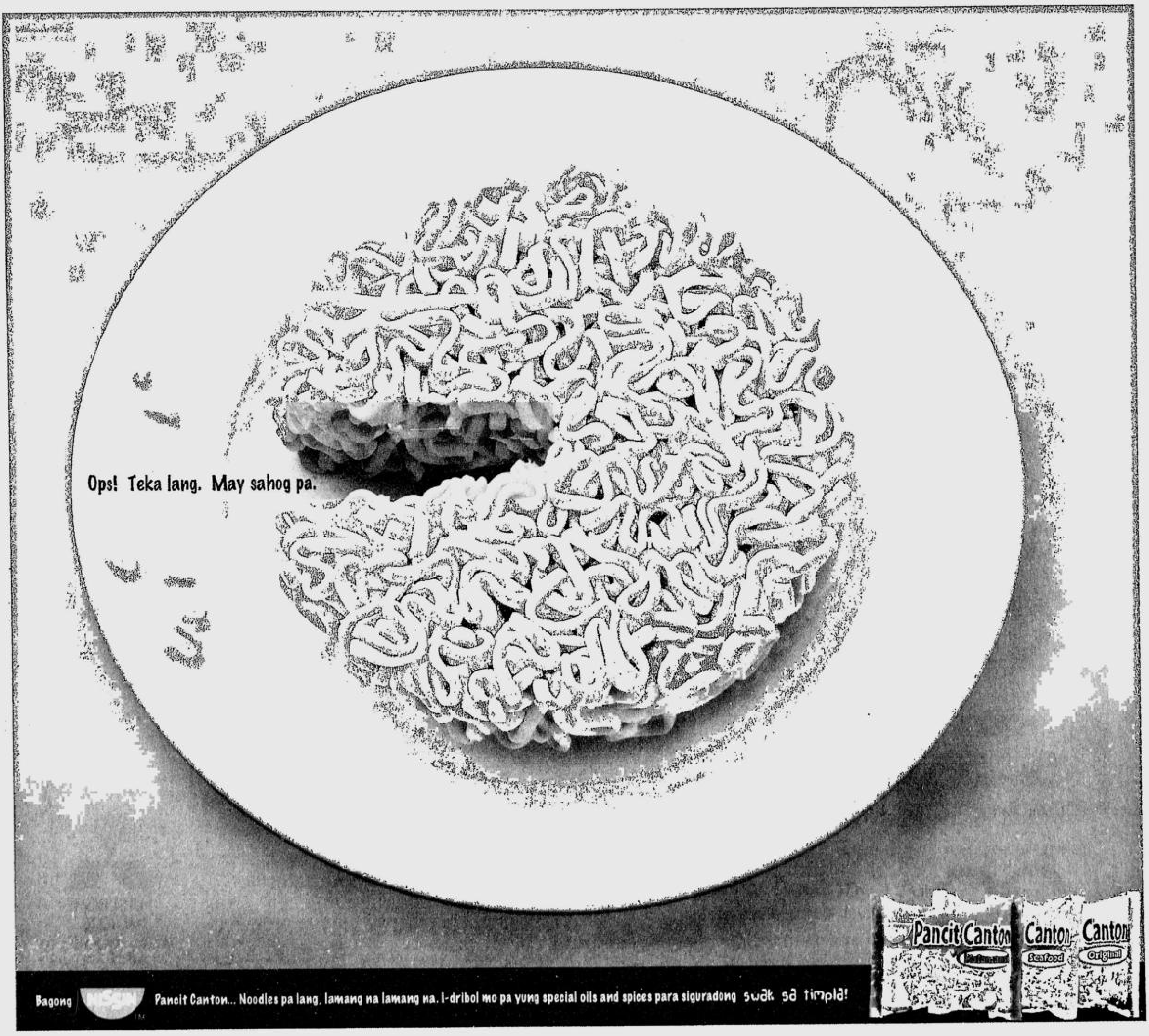
Ops! Teka lang. May sahog pa.
Bagong Nissin Pancit Canton... Noodles pa lang, lamang na lamang na. I-dribol mo pa yung special oils and spices para siguradong swak sa timpla!
Pancit Canton
Canton Seafood
Canton Original

Fresh catwalk tresses

PIN ANTONIO of Salon de Manila does a multi-textured look with creative coloring.

TIGI CATWALK MESMERized everyone at the Philippine Fashion Trends 2006 with astounding hairstyles that were made possible by its diverse line of hair care and styling products.

Angelo Justin, Joseph Tabile and Stefan Wilczynski of Basement Salon came up with styles that were were textured and unstructured, with bouncy curves that were sexy and colorful, or with a halo cut framed with blunt bangs.

Danny Katalbas, Jeoff Moran and Edgar Relos of Emphasis Salon displayed short, straight hair topped with audacious explosions of texture and color.

Salon de Manila's Pin Antonio came up with a multi-textured look with creative coloring to bring out movement and freedom of shape in her models' tresses.

Nelson Cruz and Leo Posadas of Essensuals Toni&Guy made goddesses out of their models with well-defined shapes, an ever wind-blown look and a straight, layered look.

Erica Ilacad, product manager for Tigi Catwalk, was ecstatic over the results.

Some of the Tigi Catwalk must-haves include the Fashionista range, Curls Rock range, Oatmeal and Honey set, Catfight and more.

Tigi Catwalk is available in leading salons. Call 6870424.

ESSENSUALS Toni and Guy does a dazzling display of well-defined shapes.

EMPHASIS Salon goes from a burst of wild afro to super short.

TIMELESS Waves by Stefan Wilczynski of Basement Salon

SM SUPERMALLS
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A total of 20 brand-new Mitsubishi Outlander will be given away as grand prizes in SM Supermalls' nationwide raffle event on-going until November 15. In addition to the grand prizes, 20 JVC Color TVs are being raffled off as major weekly prizes until November 12.

5 WEEKLY DRAWS
(20 UNITS JVC 29" color TV)

~~1st DRAW~~	~~OCT 15~~
~~2ND DRAW~~	~~OCT 22~~
~~3RD DRAW~~	~~OCT 29~~
~~4TH DRAW~~	~~NOV 5~~
5TH DRAW	NOV 12

simultaneous draws, all malls
one winner each mall per draw

GRAND DRAW
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November 19 / 4pm
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simultaneous draw
in all 20 malls
one winner per mall

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SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

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all the fun all the time

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SM ICE SKATING RINK

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SM BOWLING CENTERS

Tournament players in the 5th SM Bowling Cup get a chance to win in the national finals raffle.

Prizes at stake include a Brand-New Nissan Sentra, and Family Trip for 4 to Hongkong inclusive of a Disneyland tour. Plus lots of other big, big prizes!

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See mechanics posters for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1828 Series of 2005

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LIFESTYLE

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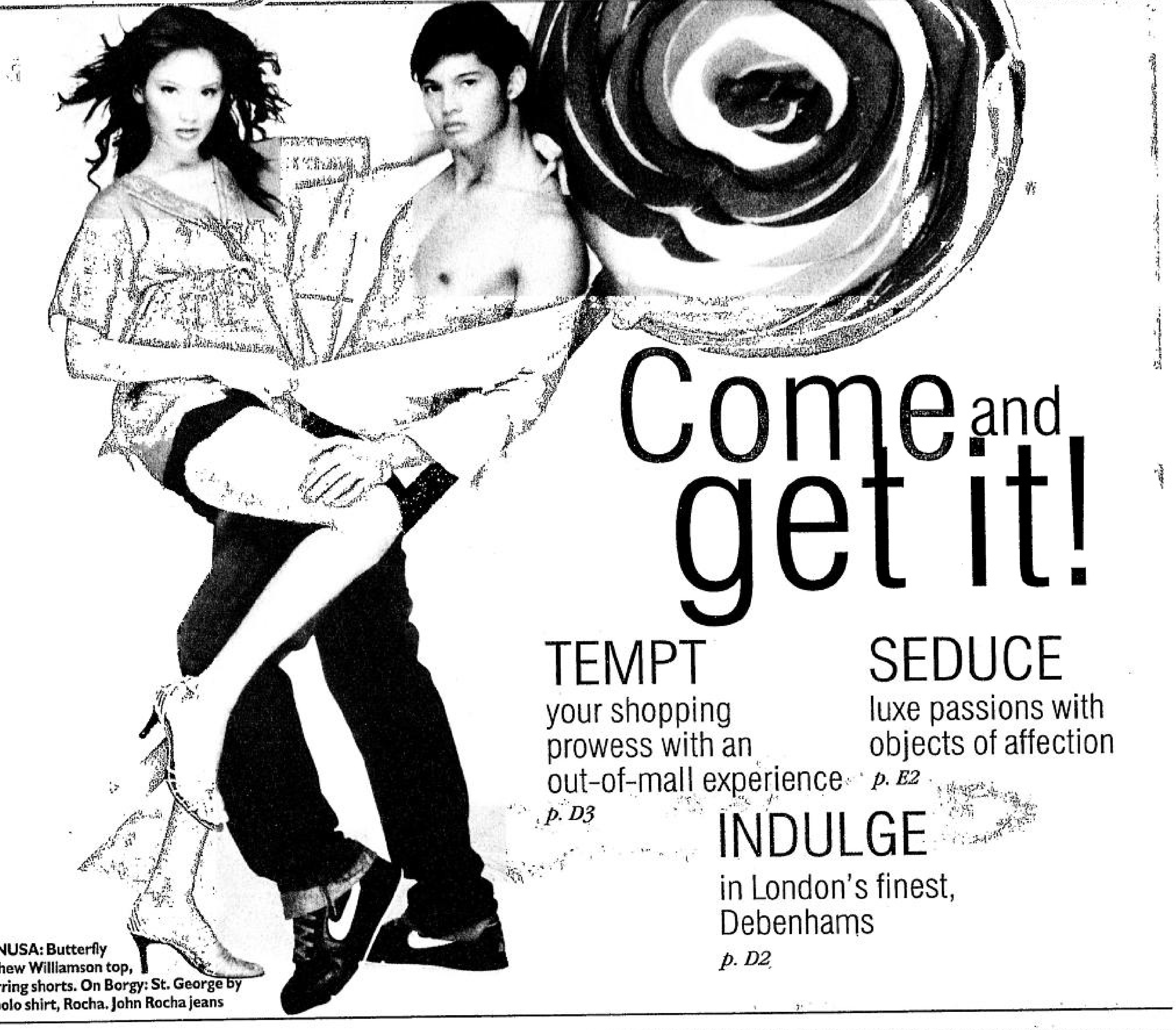
FASHION



Come and get it!

TEMPT

your shopping prowess with an out-of-mall experience

p. D3

SEDUCE

luxe passions with objects of affection

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INDULGE

in London's finest, Debenhams

p. D2

ON ORNUSA: Butterfly by Matthew Williamson top, Red Herring shorts. On Borgy: St. George by Duffer polo shirt, Rocha. John Rocha jeans

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Borgy Manotoc
Hair and makeup
Jigs Mayuga
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Clothes
Debenhams
3/L, Shangri-La
Plaza, Edsa

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London calling ... in Manila

Tea, scones or Debenhams?

By Jenni Epperson

"MIND THE GAP!" THAT'S WHAT I told myself as I dashed to the metal carriage out of breath from running; thank heavens, I made it, whew!

As the doors slid close behind me, I firmly planted my feet on the floor, and hung on to dear life—the tube was full and the only thing that kept me from falling like the London Bridge was being sandwiched between the belly of a six-foot-three bloke and the sweaty back of a broad-shouldered lady (ewww).

If it were any other day, I would have been annoyed for forcing myself inside the rush-hour cart. But because there was a promise of a lovely day, I didn't let the matter ruin my day.

As the Metro sped off to the next station, I closed my eyes and fantasized of high tea, fish and chips, and high-street heaven.

After a few minutes at fool's paradise, I felt the cart slow down. While my shoulders drenched from the old hag's sweat, my heart raced.

I knew I was close to my dream destination, Kensington, maybe Oxford or... "Shaw! Shaw!" It was my pit stop: Shaw Boulevard station where Shangri-La Mall is.

Yep, I took the ever-reliable MRT, not the London Underground. I'm thinking it was the numerous billboards along Edsa that blurred my vision and made me see high tea at the illustrious Ritz lobby or fish and chips served hot off the fryer.

But, tea and dim sum at Struan & Tang's, or Fish Fillet sandwich with side order of French fries (processed and wrapped in plastic, of course) from McDonald's are as good if not better (at least for my "Pinoy" palette) and to parade to Debenhams—these are my guilty, (almost) English pleasures.

British tradition

De-ben-hams? Yes, 'luv, Debenhams has been a household name in the United Kingdom, and it's old but very popular, much like the late Queen Mother.

The company dates back to 1778, but it was not until 1813 that its name first appeared as the partnership of Clark and Debenham in London's Wigmore Street. The business prospered to numerous retail outlets, and finally opened its first department store in 1905.

Debenhams has undergone major transitions in management up until December 2003 when CVC Capital Partners, Texas Pacific Group, Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity and Management Team acquired it.

Like tea and scones, Debenhams has been part of British tradition (low tea consists of teas, scones and sweets served in the afternoon to kill hunger pangs before dinner). Debenhams' stylish servings kill the fashion hunger for pricey designer clothing. The house offers unique mix of exclusive brands at affordable prices.

Tempting treats

I was channeling my inner Stella McCartney that day: a black, oversized, long-sleeved, button-down shirt, cinched with a white belt, and paired with black leggings. But unlike Stella, I swaggered toward the holy grail of UK "masstige."

The store glowed with day bulbs and a pretty green-and-red foil Christmas tree. My eyes brightened as I burst into song (hallelujah!)—it was a royal treat of lovely merchandise. I riffled through 12 racks of Debenhams' own brands, each one appealing to my fashion palate.

Red Herring (casual directional clothing). Maine New England (performance-enhanced clothing for the family). Debut. Pineapple (a fun range of exclusive sports and lounge wear for women and girls). J Taylor. Tigerlily. Gorgeous, Ultimate, and Presence... It's a platter full of enticing indulgences.

Like a little princess attending her first-ever tea party, I gingerly dipped my fingers, pinky in attention, into the banquet before me to get a taste of starters.

Sweet coronation

Originating from affluent folks' invitation to darling friends to have afternoon tea in their homes, the low tea, like Debenhams' lineup of 19 of the industry's top designers, became an accepted custom among the privileged. Forty-one different brands in collections carried exclusively by the store? And no RSVP needed? This shopping princess is there way before Big Ben strikes 12.

So, as though I have not had enough, my sweet tooth for designer creations led me to the court of "Designers at Debenhams." My tummy churned and my appetite was regaled by creations from J by Jasper Conran, Star by Julien MacDonald, Betty Jackson.Black, and St. George by Duffer.

I gathered full servings of fancy embellishments and appliqués from Butterfly by Matthew Williamson (now crowned prince of Pucci), a plateful of luxurious fabrics from Rocha.John Rocha, and a generous helping of contemporary pieces from Elie Tahari's Elie NY.

Caught without my usual entourage (Kat, my assistant-slash-slave—I love her), nor a carriage (my 4 x 4 and chauffer Dodo), I got lost in a 17,000-sq-ft labyrinth of women's, men's and children's fashion, as well as accessories, lingerie and soft home furnishings.

My arms quickly got filled with bags of trousers, frocks, knickers and the season's new anorak (don't ask me what it's for, it was pink, furry and sexy—that pretty much says it all).

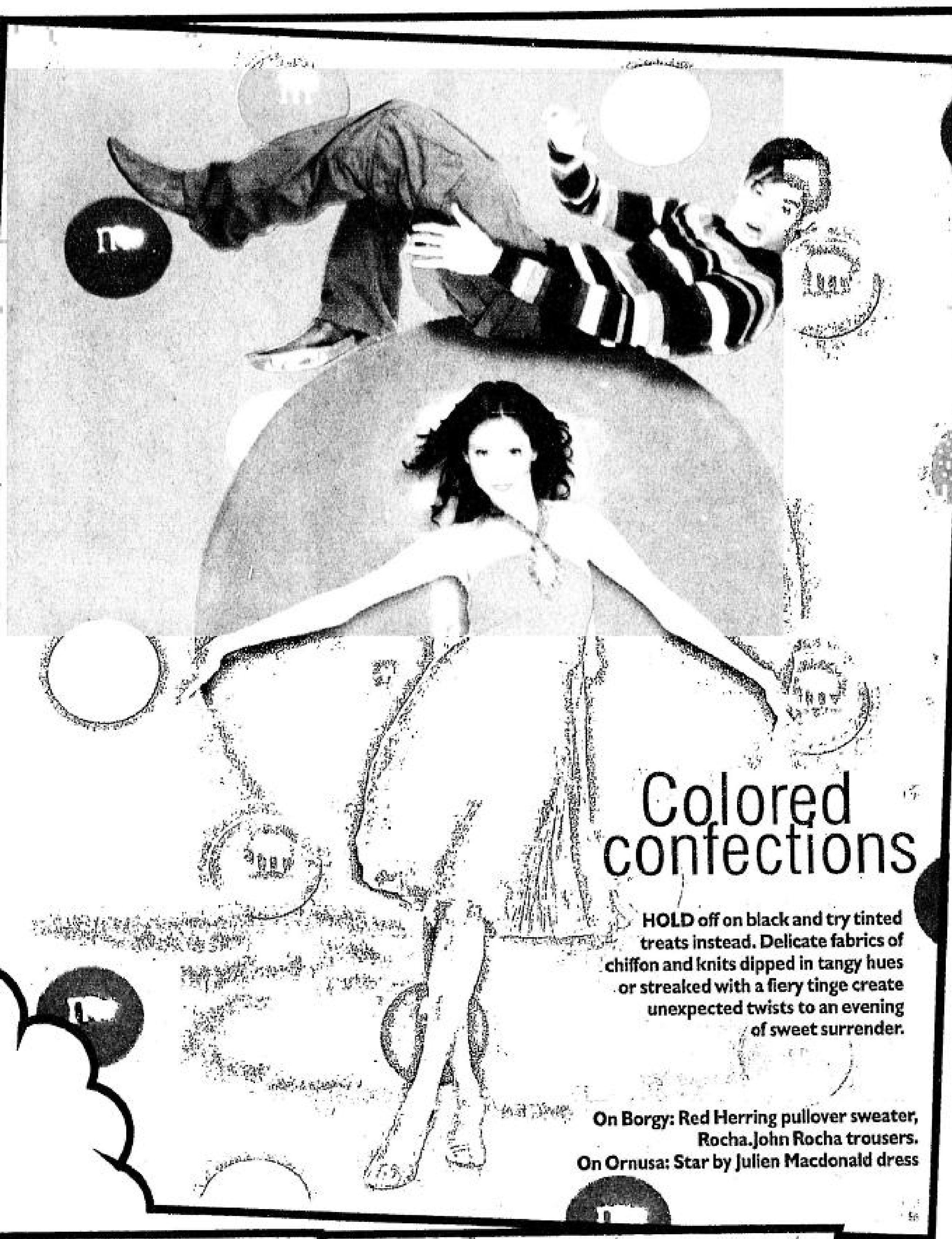
One can surely get mesmerized by the blings, black blouses and beautiful vests. It's hard not to imagine you're not in UK... was it the blings or was I seeing stars from hunger pangs?

Oh, well, it was getting late anyway so I bid my loyal subjects (aka the lovely sales ladies), who were extra helpful to me, except for one Nazi stylist who gave me the evil eye for ransacking the racks. Note to self: behead the bastard!

I inched my way back to the tube, "happy as Larry" but hungry as hell! It would be high-tea time (more of *salabat* and *mamon*) by then at the Epperson House—teas and scones, or tees and shoes whichever; I'm not one to break a traditional feast.

Once again, I anxiously queued for the Metro and saw the crevice between the platform and the metal carriage, but this time, I thought to myself, "Forget the gap... mind Debenhams!"

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



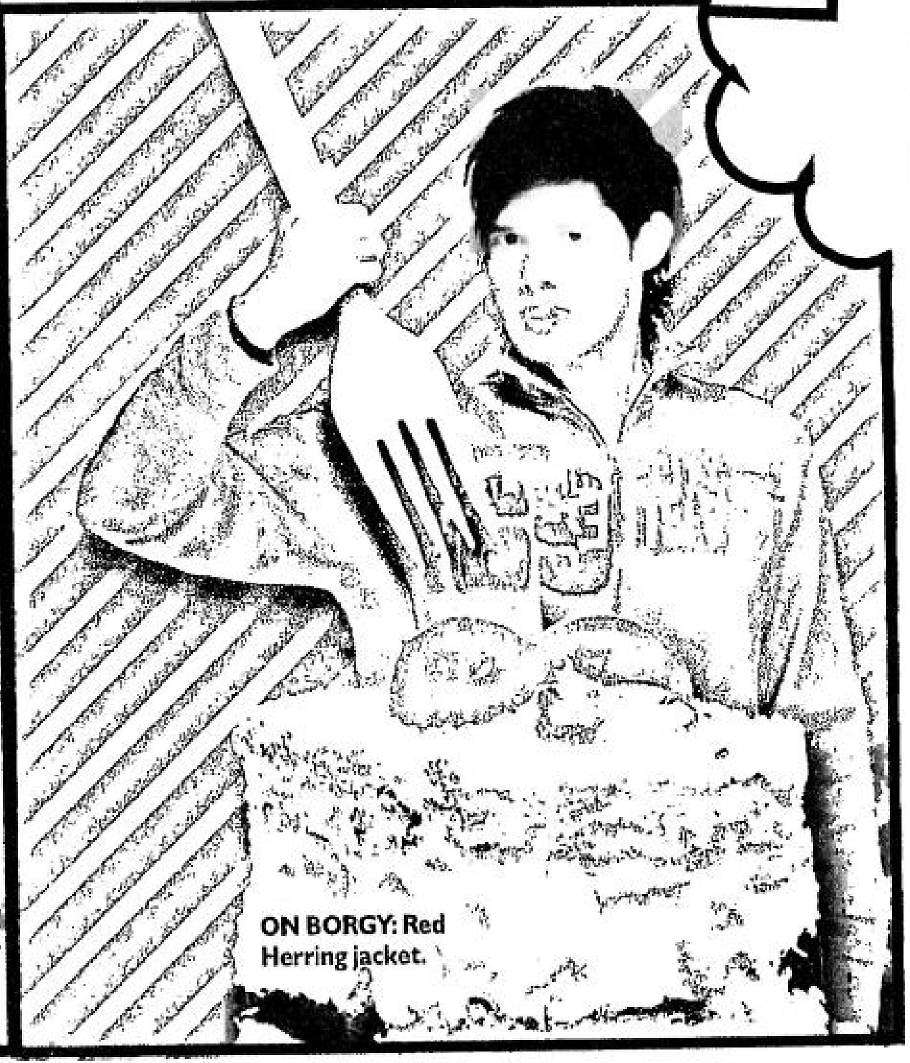
Colored confections

HOLD off on black and try tinted treats instead. Delicate fabrics of chiffon and knits dipped in tangy hues or streaked with a fiery tinge create unexpected twists to an evening of sweet surrender.

On Borgy: Red Herring pullover sweater, Rocha.John Rocha trousers.
On Ornusa: Star by Julien Macdonald dress

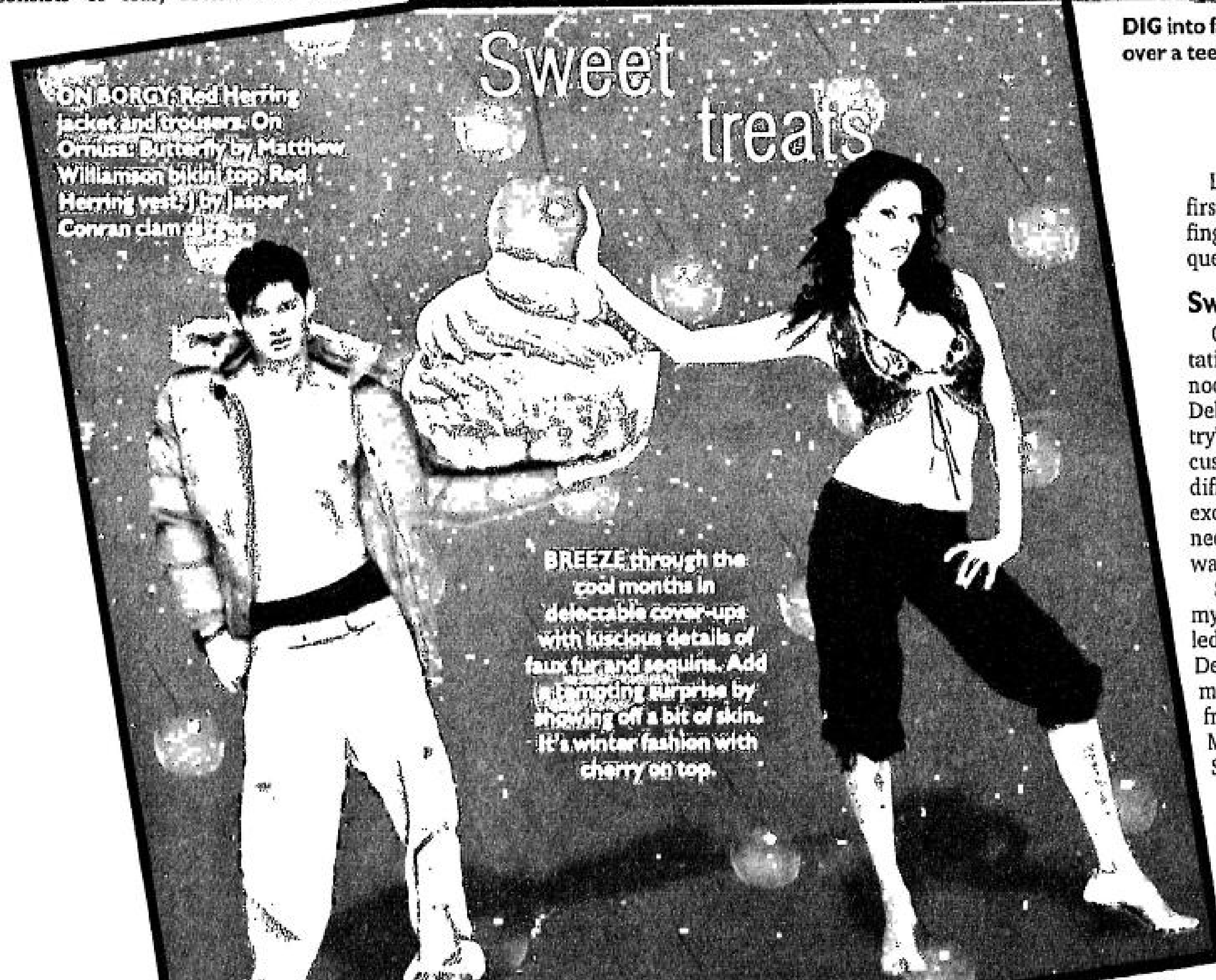
TABLE FOR TWO

ON ORNUSA: Star by Julien Macdonald t-shirt and cropped cardie, J by Jasper Conran clam diggers, Babbleboom scarf



ON BORGY: Red Herring jacket.

DIG into fashion's latest scoop in a banquet of flavored styles. Layer an intricate cardie over a tee or the reverse. Add a pinch of personality with something funky.



Sweet treats

ON BORGY: Red Herring jacket and trousers. On Ornusa: Butterfly by Matthew Williamson bikini top, Red Herring vest, J by Jasper Conran clam diggers

BREEZE through the cool months in delectable cover-ups with luscious details of faux fur and sequins. Add a tempting surprise by showing off a bit of skin. It's winter fashion with cherry on top.

Photography Raymond Isaac
Styling Jenni Epperson Digital Imaging Arnz Lorenzo (0919-2085558)
Models Ornusa Cadness and Borgy Manotoc
Hair and makeup Jigs Mayuga for Shu Uemura
Clothes Debenhams, 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa

YOU'LL find exotic wares from all over Asia in Nullah's flagship store. Take your pick from comfy cotton tops, unique beaded pants and stylish embellished purses.

Out-of-the-mall experience

TOP by Choc Religioso, trousers by Ebony & Ivory, sandals by Shoe-Bi-Do

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I MUST CONFESS I AM A CERTIFIED MALL rat. The Power Plant mall, in fact, is like a second home to me. I enjoy shopping and window-shopping in shops like Tyler, Mango, Topshop and, more recently, Zara.

Unfortunately, I am also quite fickle. So, no matter how much I enjoy scouring the malls for whatever suits my fancy, I am also always on the lookout for something new and exciting in the fashion scene—the perfect alternative to the ubiquitous shopping mall, for example.

To my surprise and delight, I discovered just the place to indulge my fashion cravings in. Along Jupiter Street in Bel-Air, Makati, is Doña Consolacion Building, a newly renovated enclave that is home to several specialty boutiques that offer unique finds. Here you'll find a variety of stylish merchandise you'll surely covet.

On the ground level, you'll find Nullah, one of my favorite boutiques. It offers exotic wares, be it clothing or home items, from all over Asia. And although the store also has a branch in the Power Plant mall, this flagship shop is huge, thus offering more varied choices. What's more, it has opened an adjacent coffee shop called Raan, so those in need of refreshments need not go far.

Right beside Nullah is Sy-Kat, an eclectic haven of fashionable finds from local designers. It carries pieces from impressive newbies like Choc Religioso, Katrina Sy, Paula Calantuan, Ebony & Ivory and Wicca Collection, and also current favorite Kate Torralba.

It also has an accessories bar that features a good selection of earrings, purses, bag charms, cuffs and whatnot. The choices are interesting and unusual, all crafted in Cebu.

Situated in a corner of the store is Shoe-Bi-Do, a brand of tailor-made shoes. You can select your material, heel height and style and trimming. The possibilities are endless and a challenge to one's creativity. The good news is, you'll get your order in two short days and it will only cost you as low as P1,400 to about P2,000. Definitely a steal for something that's made-to-order.

A short climb to the building's second level will bring you to Ab Fit jeans bar where you'll find a wide variety of blue jeans. It carries such brands as Seven for All Mankind, Antik Denim, Joe's Jeans, Rock & Republic, True Religion and the like. Denim aficionados will appreciate the selections found here.

Finally, for the ultimate fashionista, there's Fibre, which features pieces especially designed and crafted by members of the Young Designers' Guild. Those who enjoy having their outfits made especially for them will enjoy the fact that Fibre offers seriously stylish one-of-a-kind items. The best part is, you need not wait or attend fittings to experience YDG's design skills and craftsmanship.

My favorite pick was Ivarluski Aseron's structured cocktail dresses and separates, but I was also impressed with Mitzi Quilendrino's work. I have yet to explore the works of the other designers, but I know I will be equally awed.

So, if you are also on the lookout for the perfect shopping mall alternative, look no further. Here's destination shopping at it's best. Enjoy!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph.

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SHOT ON LOCATION AT BEYOND BAMBOO

> Along Jupiter Street is an arcade with a number of specialty shops that represent good fashion finds, if not alternatives

PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN LIM
HAIR AND MAKEUP DANNY KATALBAS OF EMPHASIS SALON
MODEL SOENG OMPAOCO-IKEDA

CHECK out Sy-Kat's funky accessories bar and impressive clothing collection by newbies like Choc Religioso and current favorite Kate Torralba.

SHOE-BI-DO'S fun interiors

We deliver midnight snacks.

24 hours

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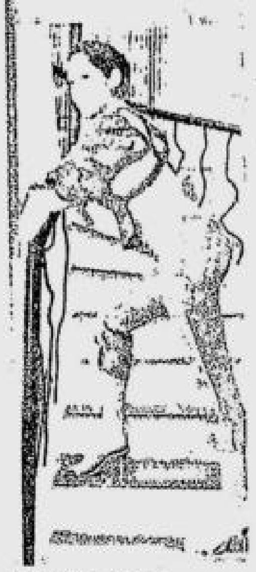

TOP by Choc Religioso, trousers by Ebony & Ivory, sandals by Shoe-Bi-Do

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. . . A cruise. I'd love to board the Queen Mary 2. I've also never been to the Caribbean—would love to stay at the Atlantic Resort. Ever since I saw it featured on “Oprah” I've been wanting to vacation there. Would love to stay at the Peninsula in Chicago and watch Oprah live. All my desires are travel- and vacation-oriented because that's what I rarely get to do.

—Kris Aquino, actress and TV host

. . . A good image for the country. For the next year, I want to help in the ultimate PR project—to build up our country's image!

—Keren Pascual, Famous Voyages organizer and PR practitioner

. . . A nice big plasma TV. I'd also like to settle down, have a happy home and, hopefully, learn to spend more wisely.”

—Bryan Lim, Bench general manager

See more of this idol at Ayala Malls.

Catch Constantine Maroulis live on these dates:
Nov. 17, 2005 8:00pm Greenbelt 3 Park, Ayala Greenbelt
Nov. 18, 2005 7:00pm Activity Center, Alabang Town Center
Nov. 19, 2005 8:30pm AFEC Fountain Area, Ayala Center Cebu
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www.ayalamalls.com.ph
Photo courtesy of Emily Optics

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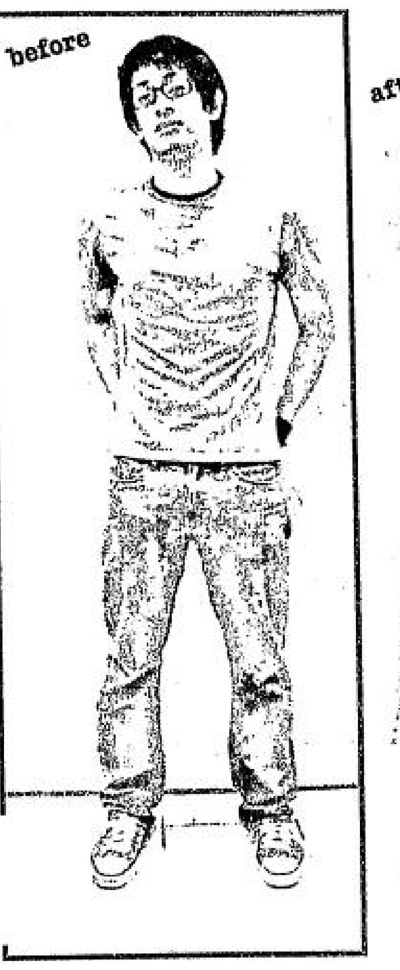
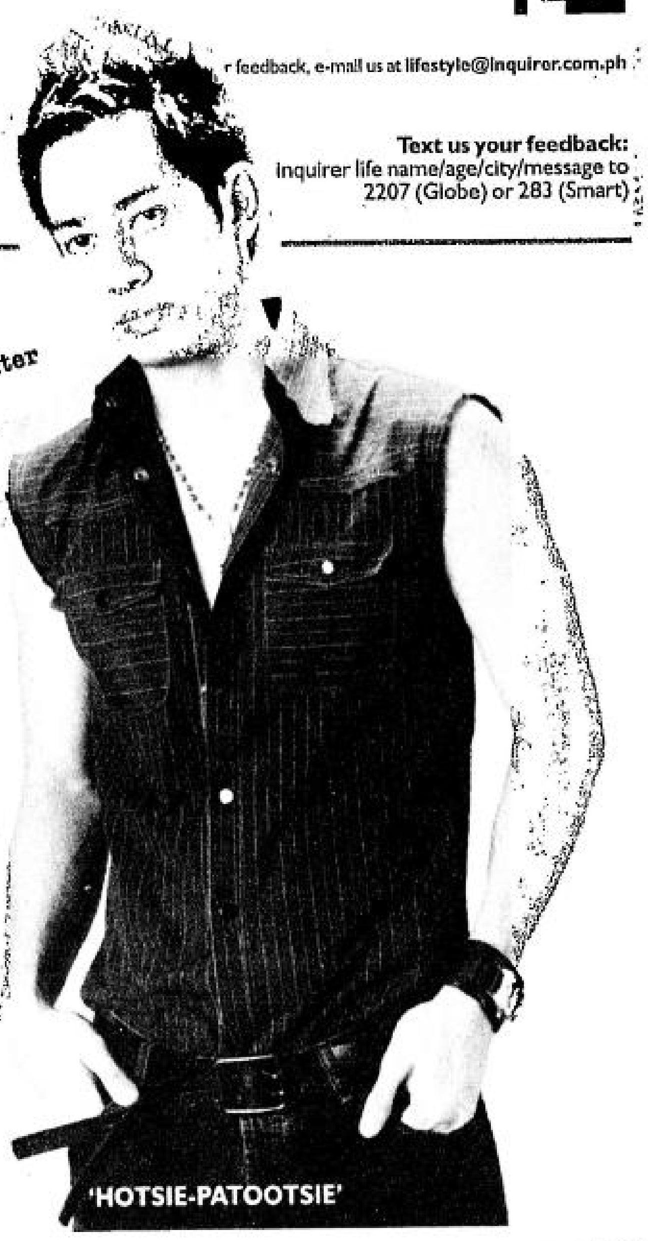
FASHION

H Salon's hairstylist Rachel Aguila cuts...

...AND colors Johann's "overpowering" mane, as described by Henri Calayag.





'HOTSIE-PATOOTSIE'

THE MALE MAKEOVER

By Juan Sarte III and Robbie Carmona

Too hot to handle

Target: Johann Ebarle, 22 years old, student

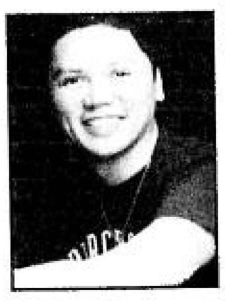
Johann studies at the University of Sto.Tomas, plays basketball and does runway modeling once in a while. Though stylish, his longish hair and the pair of black eye-glasses he wears make him look retro and nerdy.

Mission: Cutie to hottie

JUAN SAYS:

People used to say cute to describe a physically attractive person. These days, everyone uses the word "hot."

What is it about hot that's not cute? Hot is more than cute. It's on a higher level. Hot does not only mean good-looking. It can mean new, fresh and exciting. It is of-the-moment. Hot is sexually attractive and desirable. Hot arouses the senses. It means everyone wants you.



Hot is everywhere and knows no gender. The Pussycat Dolls song goes "Don't-Cha-Wish-Your-Girlfriend-Was-Hot-Like-Me." I was in San Francisco last week and I found a red t-shirt that said "Don't-Cha-Wish-Your-Boyfriend-Was-Hot-Like-Me." Don't we all wish to be hot?

Even celebrities and models are looking hotter and hotter. On billboards, Kris Aquino, Claudine Barretto, Gretchen Barretto, Rafael Rossell and Alvin Gonzales are sizzling hot. On prime-time television, Narda swallows a stone and metamorphoses into Angel Locsin, the Kampanerang Kuba lights a candle and transforms into Anne Curtis. Meanwhile, the men—Piolo, Jericho, Luis and Richard Gutierrez—occasionally display their abs and biceps.

On the runway, the temperature always rises when models strut their wares in clothes that show a lot of skin and jean waistlines that have gone lower and lower.

Cute has become boring. These days, hot is the way to go. Hot can be achieved. Just know what you have, how to take care of it and how to flaunt it. Half of it is about good looks and personality. The other half is carrying it well with the right grooming and styling. Join us as we transform Johann from a mere cutie to a hottie.

Grooming makeover by Juan Sarte III

Accomplice: H Salon, 3/L Rustan's Makati

Hair cut:

"Johann needs a short hair cut!" exclaimed H Salon's creative director Henri Calayag. Senior hair stylist Rachel Aguila, who is known as H Salon's Queen of Male Haircuts, agreed, saying Johann had too much hair that overpowered his features.

At first, Johann was scared and didn't want to part with his longish hair that he had kept for two years. "I will give you a haircut that is easy to wear," Rachel assured Johann. "Short hair will make your face look less slim. It will balance your features."

Rachel started by using a trimmer on the sides and back of Johann's hair. The length of the crown area was maintained but blended with the short back and sides. After she achieved the basic silhouette of the desired cut, Rachel did slicings on the crown area, then twisted random sections and used thinning sheers to texturize and give the cut more definition. Instead of a sharp barber's cut, the hairline was given disconnecting cuts to give that "unfinished look," which according to Rachel looks softer and more natural.

Hair color:

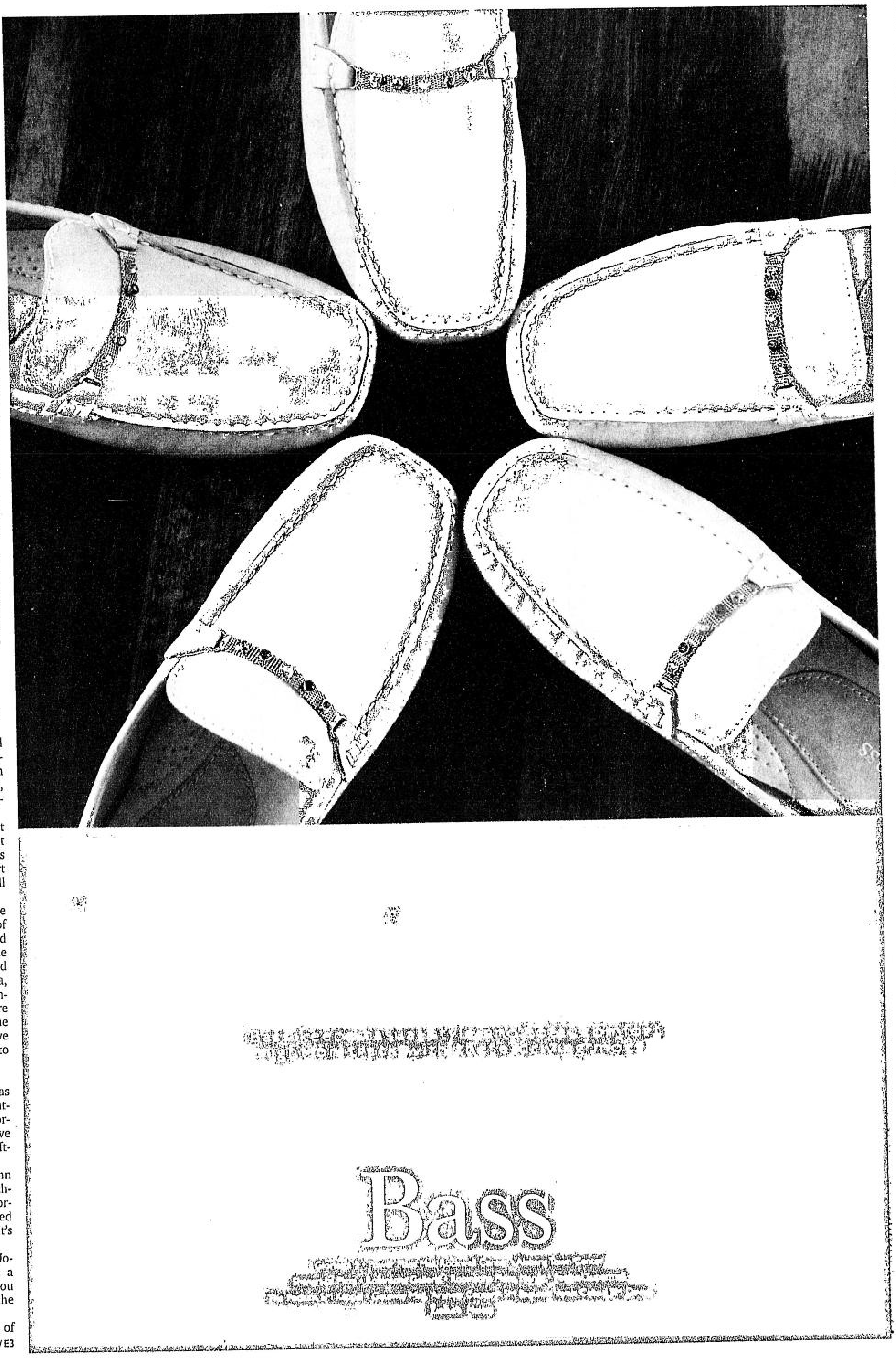
Rachel's hair color design on Johann was that of an "intentional re-growth." She wanted to give him that dark-roots-when-color-has-grown-out look. "Darker roots will give more contrast. It's also more natural and softening to the features," she said.

To achieve the look, Rachel gave Johann highlights using the "shoe-shine technique"—a technique wherein the color formula is placed on a sheet of foil then rubbed on the hair with a side-to-side motion. "It's like shining a shoe," said Rachel.

But before doing this, Rachel styled Johann's uncolored hair with hair gel and a blow-dryer. "If you color on styled hair, you can design the highlight placements with the finished hairstyle in mind," Rachel added.

The color formula used was a mixture of

TOO HOT/E3

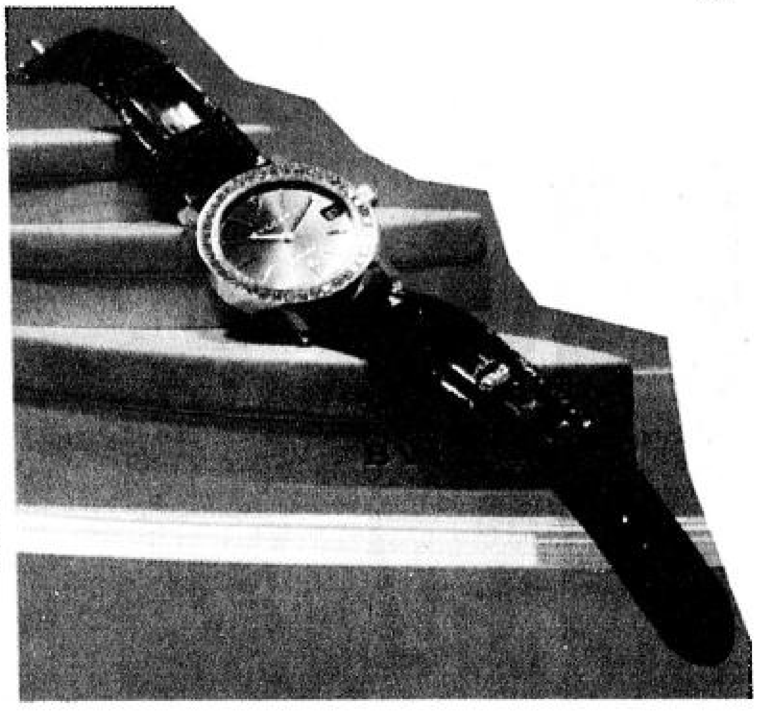


YSL CasaBianca Ankle Strap Heel

PRADA Portachiavi in Jack bag charm

PRADA Portachiavi in Milly bag charm

PHOTOS BY ANGELO BARRETTO (0921-7921979)



BULGARI Classic Diamond Bezel Ladies Watch in 18-k white gold with crocodile strap

The object of my affection

Getting Mr. Right is as difficult as getting the perfect present

By Bianca Valerio
Contributor

IN SEARCH OF THE perfect gift?

In search of the perfect partner?

The holidays are prancing their way back into our lives—and into our wallets. Whether hoping to make it to Santa's list or getting our entire wish list, we—men and women—have objects of desire we wish to attain in the season of giving and loving.

I have to admit, however, that getting The One is just as painstaking as finding the perfect pair of designer jeans. Okay, so not entirely! But the point is, regarding matters of the heart or of one's budget, whatever choices we make in this life, it's all about getting value for our investment.

In finding the ideal mate, there are certain qualities we should look out for as we would for an ideal present.

So how do I love thee? Let me count the ways…

1. Spending some Q.T. Someone once told me, "The most precious thing I could ever give you is my time." Right. So time really is precious but talk is cheap. Then again, in the search for Mr. or Ms Right, it's important to note that, indeed, it is one's presence that counts, and not presents. But if you must insist, receiving an elegant or shall I say, extravagant, timepiece wouldn't hurt now, would it? So if time could stand still, it would definitely have to be on your wrist.

2. Are you going my way? When your ideal someone is headed toward the right direction, to a bright fulfilling future, you want nothing more than to be walking side by side with him or her. So strutting on a pair of killer embellished stilettos only help you both reach your final destination.

3. Dress you up with my love. Whether your type is the bad boy or the good girl, no one's too tough to be showered with good old love and affection. Should that be a problem, you could always run into the arms of a warm coat for some sugar and spice and everything nice.

4. Mr. Sandman, bring me a dream. Nothing beats discovering a person who's a complete package of brains, looks and pizzazz. And as you two plan for life's journey, make sure to pack all your dreams and hopes and skeletons in style. (Excess baggage sold separately)

5. Truth be told. If I had a penny for every pick-up line used on me, I'd be filthy rich. So rich, I could finally pamper myself with the finest and most luxurious skin care. Revealing nothing but my luminescent skin and unwrinkled eyes that tells no lies. As they say, the truth will set you free. With a truth serum as potent as this, you'll surely get to radiate that inner glow.

With all the time in the world, feel free to let life embrace you with all it has to offer. And someday fate will come knocking at your door to deliver the complete package you've been waiting for; to look you in the eyes and discover the wonder of you.

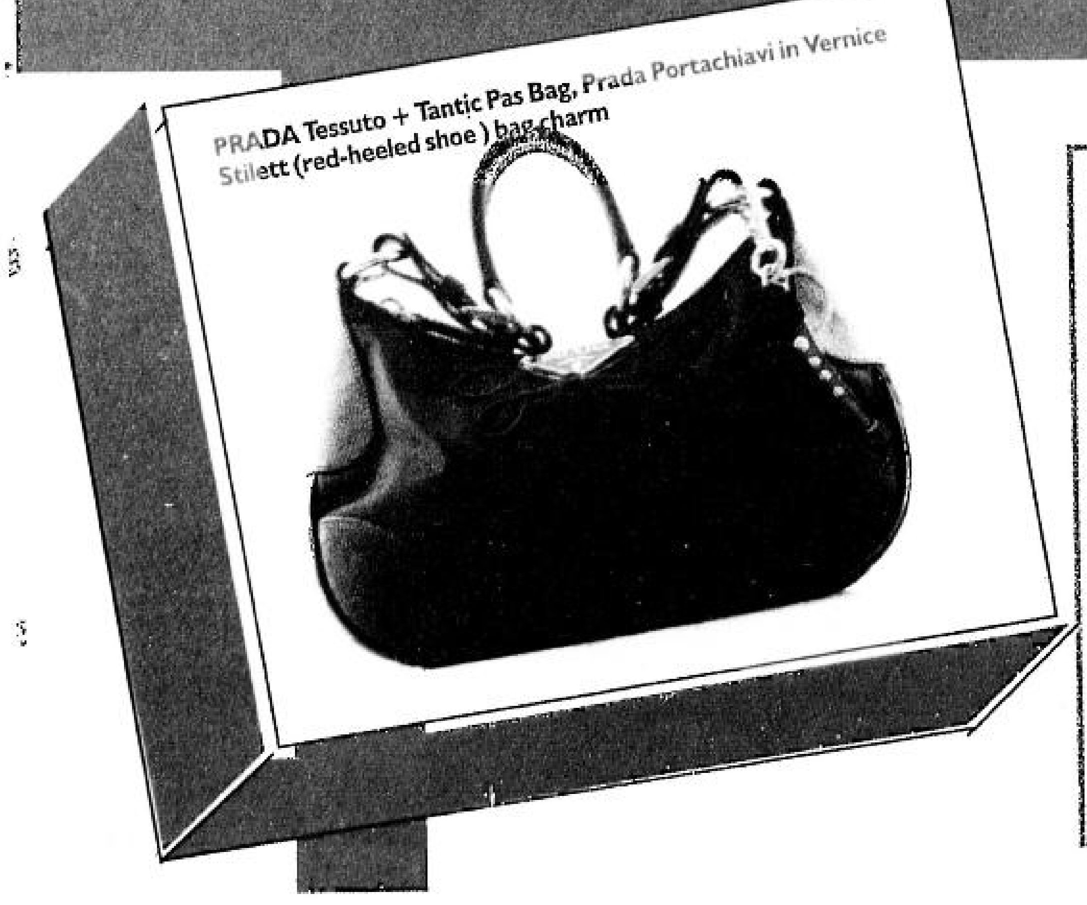
But in the meantime, there's always the nearby mall to spend your Christmas hopes and desires away!

GUCCI Logo Navy Trench Coat, Gucci Silver Choker, Gucci Bamboo Strap Watch

BULGARI Classic Moon Phases Men's Watch in 18-k white gold with crocodile strap

PRADA Viaggio Trolley

PRADA Tessuto + Tantic Pas Bag, Prada Portachiavi in Vernice Stilett (red-heeled shoe) bag charm



THE GIFT of Miracles Holiday Collection Duo Set for Him and Her, Rustan's

LA MER
LA MER

DITCH the glasses, accessorize with a necklace.

Too hot ...

From page E1

light brown and hazel mahogany.

Hairstyle:

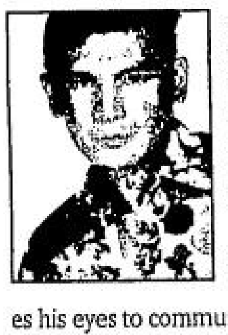
Rachel demonstrated the three ways of styling the haircut she did on Johann. First, she scrunched and twisted it with Wella Strong Hold Gel, then left the bangs down for a more casual look.

"The slicing on the bangs gives that soft look because you can see in between them," Rachel said.

Second, she flattened the top with a stick wax and parted the hair on the sides "for a more formal look."

The third look was edgy. Using Tigi Hard Head Gel, she pulled out the top to create a Mohawk-like spike. Whatever style it's in, "this haircut is of high voltage and will make Johann look hotter than ever," exclaimed Rachel.

ROBBIE SAYS:



A few months back, I was asked to judge for an episode of "Close-up to Fame," a reality TV show wherein we were tasked to choose the next models to endorse the product. At that point, I felt like I was Paris Hilton for saying "That's hot!" so many times on national TV. The male winner of that search, for me, was not the most gorgeous guy in the batch, but definitely the hottest one. What is it really to be truly hot?

1. A man with a touch of mystery is definitely hot! The way he moves and uses his eyes to communicate is as important as his great sense of humor.

2. I don't believe that men should always show a lot of skin to be noticed. Why would you reveal everything, when the idea of unwrapping is so sexy.

3. It is interesting to see a man who can mix and match, someone who can be dressed up or dressed down, while mixing elements in an uncontrived way. Look at yourself in the mirror while dressing up. Add, remove, tuck it in, leave it untucked. Experiment, that's hot!

4. Being hot is not only a matter of age, but rather a matter of attitude. Recently, spending time with my father in America made me realize this. He is 50 years old but still oozing with style and attitude. For me, he's not only hot, but also has reached the sizzling point of the scale.

My dear friends, join me as I guide you through a shopping trip in search for the hottest items this side of town.

Accomplice: Folded&Hung, Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati

Hot look no. 1: First rule applied, off with the glasses! No. 1 must-have essential, a pair of well-fitting jeans that will make you feel they were especially made for you. A good pair of jeans can actually be matched with practically everything and anything under the sun.

I chose to pair the jeans with a long-sleeved polo to create a relaxed look I saw donned by most of the hot guys along the streets of San Francisco.

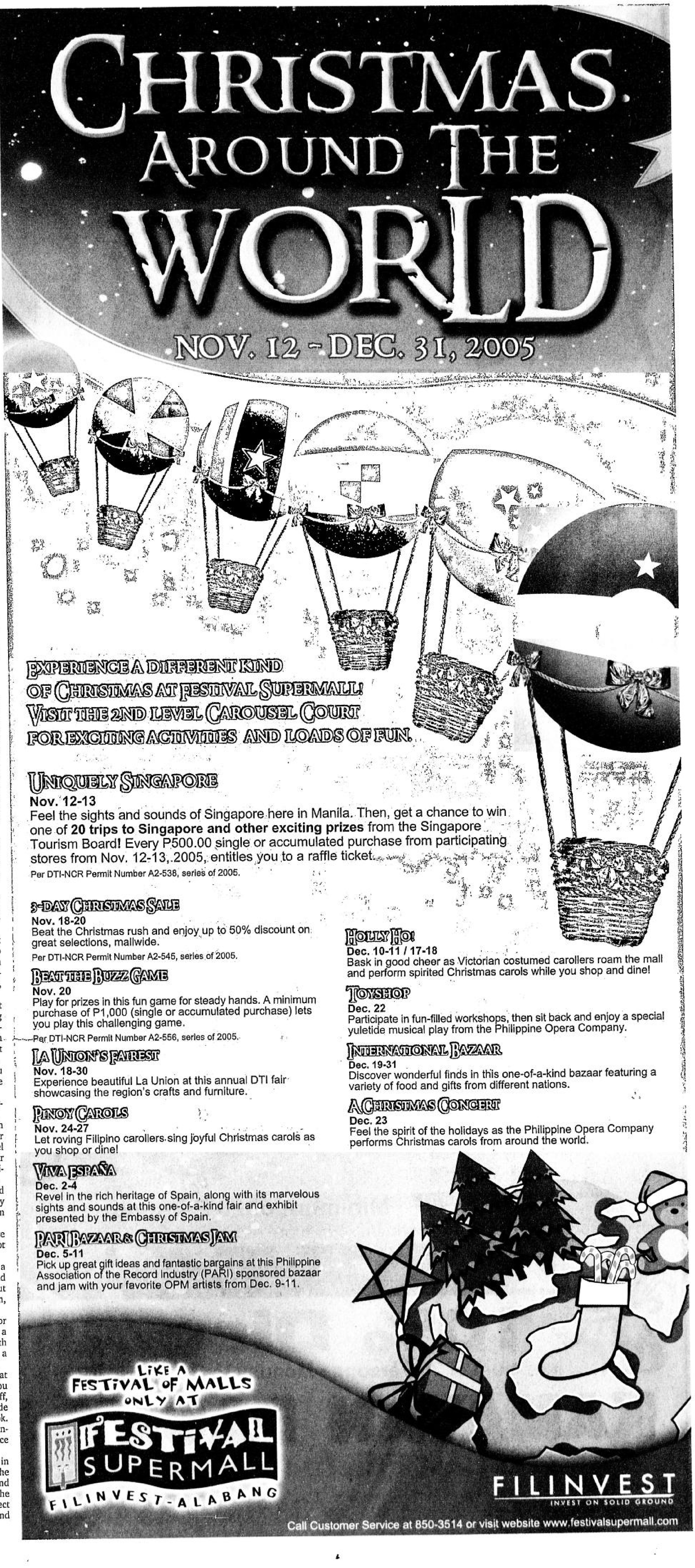
Accessorizing is another hot thing to do these days. A simple get-up can look steaming hot when accompanied by a hat, or a cool bling.

For Johann, I accessorized him with a Rosary which you see worn by Beckham and Kutcher. Now, Johann is ready to hang out and go to the most happening clubs in town, without blinking an eye.

Hot look no. 2: The second look I styled for Johann is one of my favorites. I picked a sleeveless buttoned-down polo paired with Folded&Hung's Illegally Low Jeans and a bling-bling to complete this hot look.

The look creates a slim fit silhouette that curves with your shoulders. If you think you don't have the biceps and triceps to show off, try wearing a plain white shirt under it to hide some of your skin without sacrificing the look. If you are the type who doesn't believe in minimalism, try adding a cap or a chain to spice up the outfit even more.

While all these style tips are great tools in making you achieve a hotter new you, at the end of the day, these should go hand in hand with a level of confidence that truly tips the scale. So explore, experiment and expect Manila's own Paris Hiltons to point at you and shout, "That's hot!"



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Dec. 22
Participate in fun-filled workshops, then sit back and enjoy a special yuletide musical play from the Philippine Opera Company.

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MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

Seasons' best dressed

By Katrina Cruz

THE "SHU BY AI-MOTOROLA PEBL" NIGHT AT THE LOFT in Rockwell was an event that fused modern design, luxury, art, and beauty for the sake of charity.

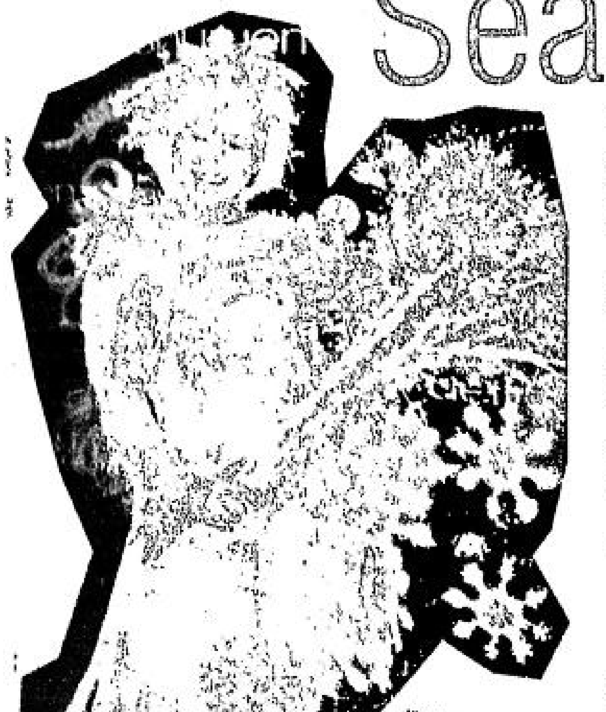
The launch was supported by Smart Infinity, the Shu Uemura Limited Edition Cleansing Oils by artist Ai Yamaguchi, and the Motorola PEBL.

With the four seasons as the theme of the night, people were asked to dress glamorously for their favorite season—winter, spring, summer or fall.

Art works by Ai Yamaguchi, Kiko Escora, Jason Moss, Maria Taniguchi and Team Manila were later auctioned off for the benefit of the L'Arch Foundation.

The best dressed of each season won a PEBL phone and Shu by Ai Oil!

Overall, it was a look-good-and-feel-good night.



TESSA Prieto-Valdes

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It was a night that blended art, modern design, luxury and beauty for a good cause

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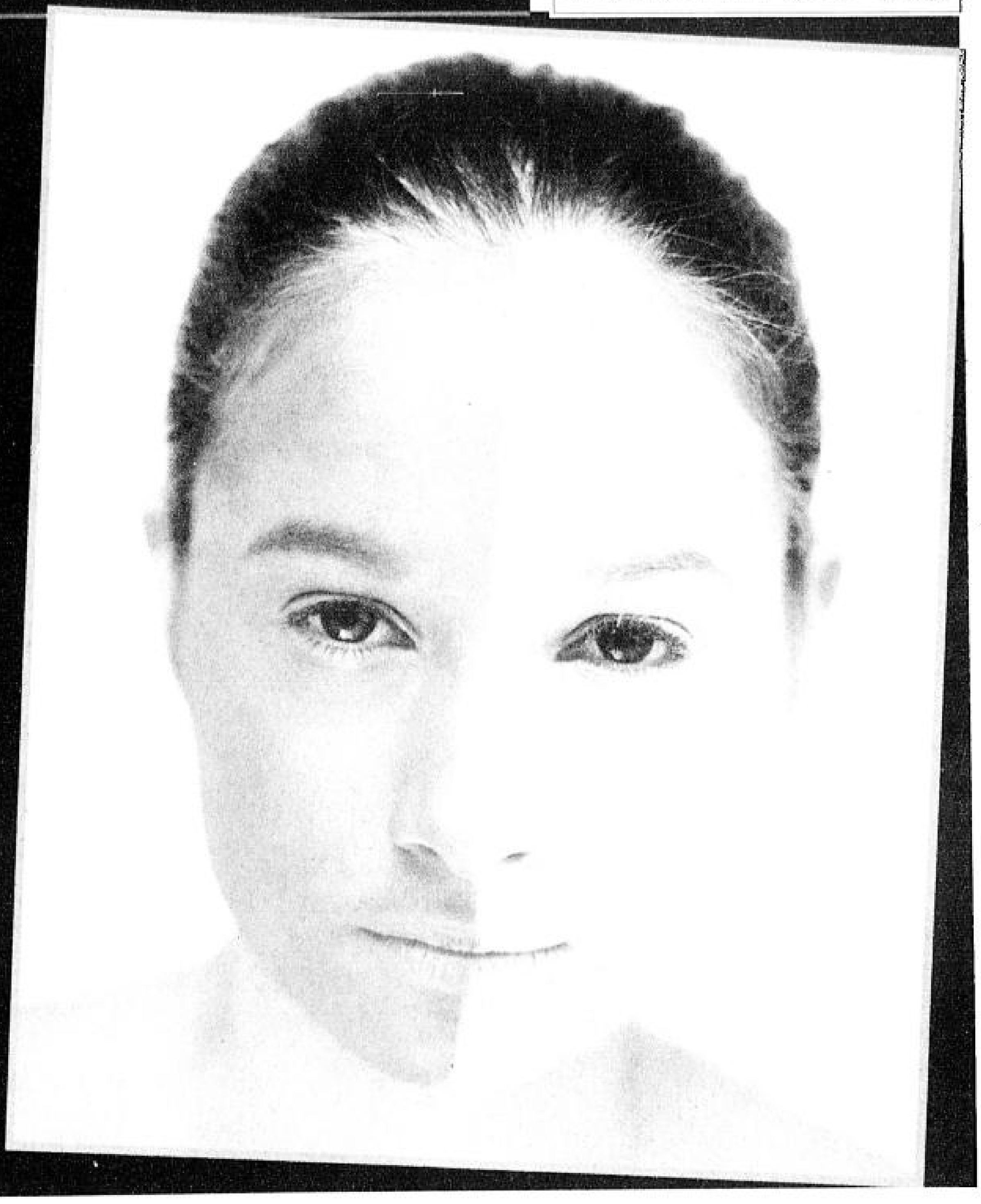
BEAUTY

Tips and tools



- Good foundation *p. F2*
- The power of three (steps) *p. F2*
- Small wonders *p. F3*
- Star-gazing *p. F3*
- A brush with L'Oreal *p. F4*
- Mascara showdown *p. F4*

PHOTOGRAPHY
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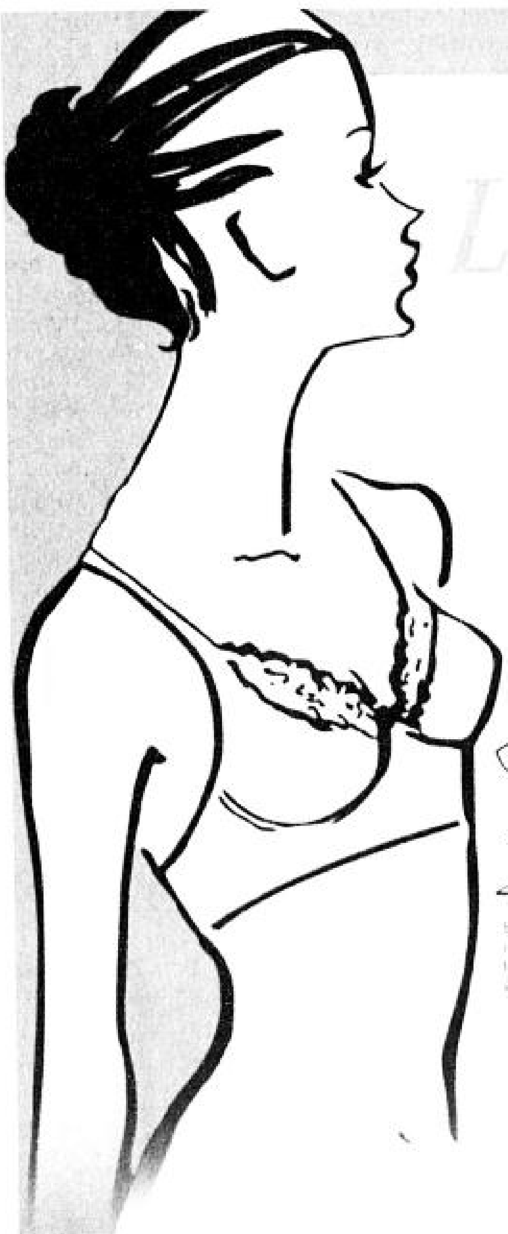
MAKEUP BARBIE CHAN (0917-8460738)
TEXT AND STYLING
MINELLI BAUTISTA
MODEL
GEORGIA SCHULZE

WACOAL NEWS!

Wacoal

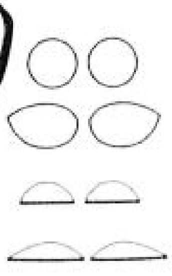


Let's get pretty intimate.

Women have always been interested to learn more about clothes and makeup to help them fully achieve their potential. It's about time we pay attention to the often unseen, yet important part of our ensemble, our undergarments.

Many women neglect to remember that brassieres and panties serve an important purpose, to give proper support that will also enhance the body's silhouette. Wearing the right underwear can improve the way we feel about ourselves.

Here are some tips on how to get the most out of your intimate garments.



Bra pads come in a variety of shapes and sizes to enhance bust support and silhouette.

Pads are for everyone?

Two decades ago, only less endowed women wear breast pads. Today, we discover that pads serve to correct the position and proportion of your bust. There are several types of pads you can choose from, depending on the silhouette you desire.

[illegible]

Wearing underwired bras are no longer uncomfortable. Technology made it possible to create a natural and comfortable fit by using softer and lighter materials. Use underwired bras to lift, shape and support your breasts.

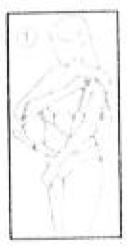
Some storage tips

When storing clothes, assign a separate drawer for undergarments. Just keep in mind that fabrics tend to deteriorate and become extremely fragile when left in the drawer and not used for two to three years. Especially look after bras and girdles.

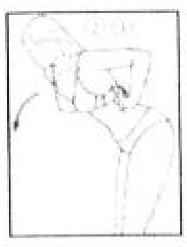
[illegible]

Study your figure. Use undergarments to conceal flaws and highlight assets. For example, hide a buldging stomach by wearing a girdle or bodysuit that has a tummy-tucking effect. Wear a full-support bra to give the breast a higher lift. This will help emphasize the bustline.

The right way of getting it on.

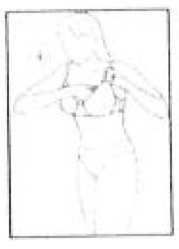


Put your arms through the shoulder straps.

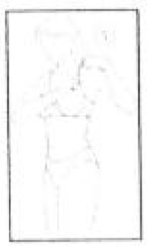


Slightly lean forward and place your breasts inside the cups.

Secure your breasts.



Stand up straight and adjust the shoulder straps.



Move around to check the fitting.

Discover your inner colors.

Colors help us express our feelings, show our personality and even change our mood. This also applies in the undergarments you wear.

a. The right color for your style.

When you want your undergarments to be less obvious and blend with your skin, wear beige or brown. Some even wear bras that match the color of their outfit. But if your style calls for something more revealing, then you can use bolder colors.

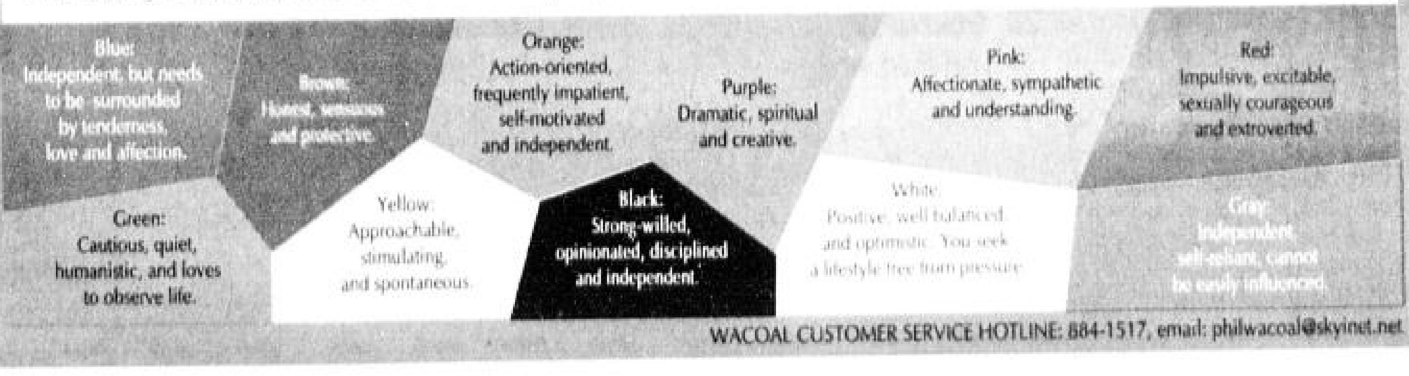
Many men think that black is the sexiest color for a woman's undergarment.

b. What color suits you?

Check your closet. What color dominates your wardrobe? See if it reveals your true personality.

It is really important to give your undergarments ample consideration. Next time you plan to buy a bra or a panty, you'd know what to look for.

Let Wacoal help you choose the undergarment that fits you perfectly. Visit any Wacoal outlet and have your measurements taken by their experts. With their current Perfect Fit Campaign, you'll know what fits your body, style and personality.



Blue: Independent, but needs to be surrounded by tenderness, love and affection.
Brown: Honest, sensuous and protective.
Orange: Action-oriented, frequently impatient, self-motivated and independent.
Purple: Dramatic, spiritual and creative.
Pink: Affectionate, sympathetic and understanding.
Red: Impulsive, excitable, sexually courageous and extroverted.
Green: Cautious, quiet, humanistic, and loves to observe life.
Yellow: Approachable, stimulating, and spontaneous.
Black: Strong-willed, opinionated, disciplined and independent.
White: Positive, well balanced and optimistic. You seek a lifestyle free from pressure.
Gray: Independent, self-reliant, cannot be easily influenced.

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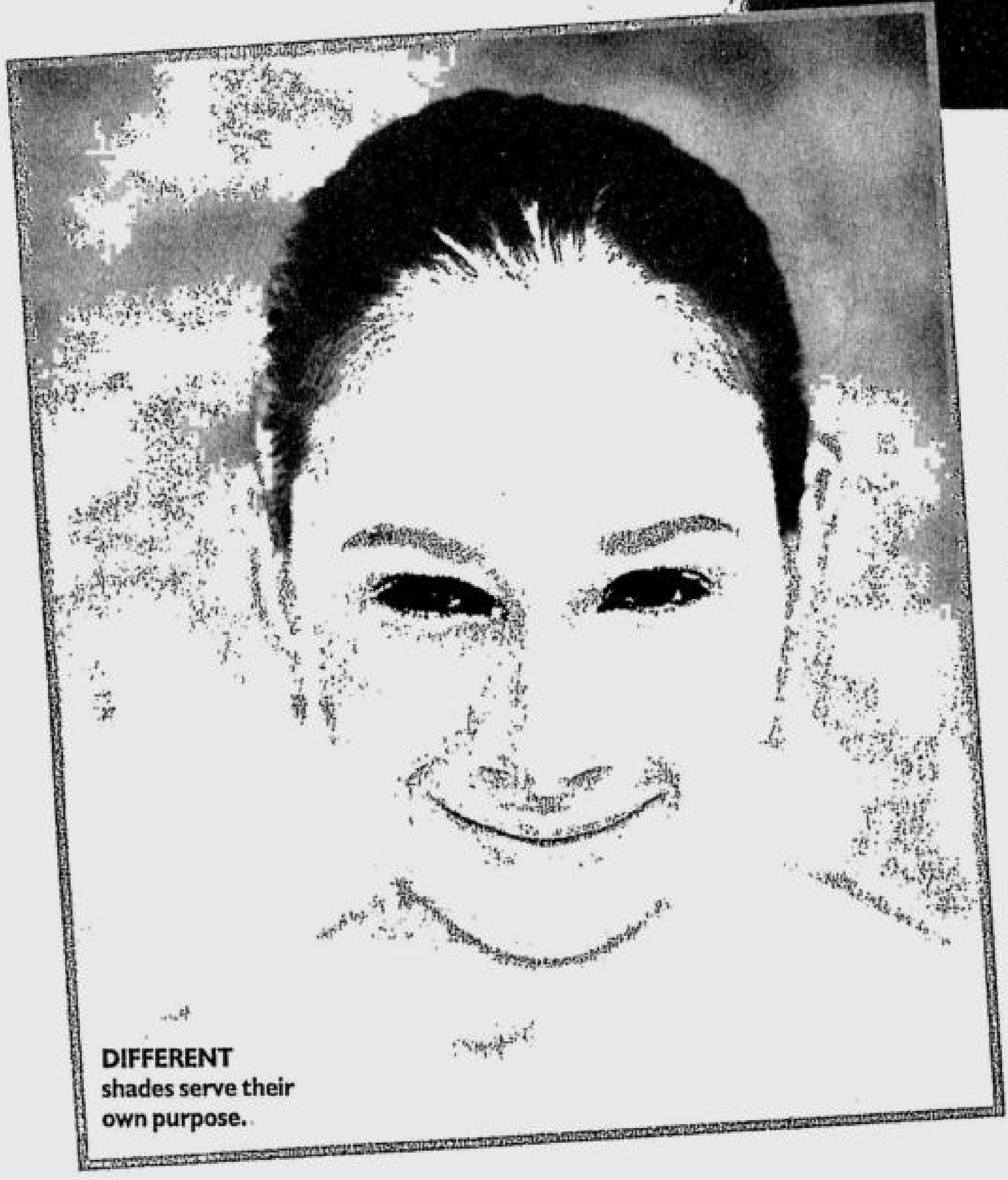
Conceal to reveal

Using makeup the right way will make you look and feel more beautiful

THE JAWLINE test is the best when picking your foundation.



DIFFERENT shades serve their own purpose.

By Minelli Bautista
Contributor

EVERYONE KNOWS THE saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover." But we can't help it. We do just that, day in and day out, consciously and subconsciously. We rate others on the basis of their appearance and compare our own looks with the enhanced images of beautiful women in movies and magazines and on TV and billboards.

Beauty not only sells, it pays off. Beautiful kids get more attention from parents and teachers. Attractive girls get more dates than average ones. Pretty women get into exclusive clubs for free. The list of pluses for being one of the "beautiful people" goes on and on.

So what makes a person attractive? Flawless face, beauty mark, clear skin, cute smile—they give women personality, something special that makes them unique. But not all of us are blessed with these, or may have one but don't consider it as such.

Using makeup is a quick way to make your face appear more even, and make you look and feel more beautiful.

Choose the right base. The biggest mistake women make is not using the right shade of concealer and foundation for their skin tone.

Concealer. Concealer, as the name suggests, is used to conceal facial imperfections and hide blemishes, under-eye circles, dark spots, pimples, scars and birth marks, and give us the look of flawless skin. Denser than foundation, concealer comes as sticks, cream and tubes, and can also be used to hide freckles on the face.

Since concealer is mostly used to cover up the darker spots on the face, choose a shade that's generally one shade lighter than the foundation. For the perfect-skin look, gently pat the concealer on with your fingertips, and be sure to cover the entire under-eye area and outside area of the eyes, as they often end up red and dry after a long day.

Concealer, which is much lighter than foundation, when mismatched, may result in over-emphasizing a spot rather than covering it up. For people with dry skin who need to camouflage larger areas such as under-eye circles, liquid concealer is the best foundation, while solid concealer is better to hide definite areas such as pimples, scars and bruises.

Foundation. Liquid-to-powder foundation can also serve as a concealer that blends easily with the skin. If you are using liquid foundation, you should use foundation first and then the concealer. But if you are using a cream-to-powder foundation, use concealer first and then the foundation.

Beyond all that, there are certain formulas that are best suited for different skin types.

If you have dry skin, pick a hydrating or oil-free moisture formula. Most products now have a time-release system that continuously moisturizes for long hours.

If you have oily skin, opt for a water-based or oil-free formula that's non-comedogenic (meaning it won't cause blackheads or whiteheads). A powder or liquid type will look most natural.

To minimize the appearance of fine lines, check out the new light-diffusing formulas that subtly scatter light when it hits your face, softening your flaws.

To conceal uneven pigmentation, look for a full-coverage formula, usually found in cream-to-powder varieties.

Sure, when you look good, you feel better. Nobody's perfect, and that's just fine. When you look at a beautiful face, embrace its unique qualities, including the unevenness. Individuality—now that's beautiful.

PHOTOGRAPHY
PAOLO PINEDA
MAKEUP BARBI CHAN
STYLING
MINELLI BAUTISTA
MODEL
GEORGIA SCHULZE

Cut & Keep

Cover girl

Late nights shouldn't be an excuse to look shabby or wan

STYLING BY GISELLE GO
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAOLO PINEDA
(0918-9375498)
MAKEUP BY BARBI CHAN
(0917-8460738)
MODEL: ANIELLE SANTOS

By Giselle Go
Contributor

THERE'S NO REASON to put your social life on hold if you're wielding the right weapon in your beauty arsenal. For late nights and zit-laden days, concealer is a girl's best friend.

When choosing concealers, it's important to know how much coverage your skin needs. Those with fair skin should go for liquid concealers (which typically come with wand applicators) because it delivers sheer coverage that won't overpower light complexions. Creams, like those in pots or sticks, are ideal for darker skin which need stronger, more opaque coverage.

A good way to test concealers is to dab a small amount on the vein of your inner wrist. If it successfully covers the vein's blue tint, it's likely to camouflage unwelcome blemishes on your face. A yellow-based concealer is best for Filipina skin tones, but a color-corrective concealer like one in green is great for small spots because it cancels out the redness in zits and blemishes.

1st step:

Prep your face with eye cream on your undereye area and a moisturizer on the rest of your face, allowing a few minutes for them to absorb. This helps the concealer glide on smoothly. Dot concealer along areas which need coverage—usually along the undereye area, around the nose and mouth, and any spot or blemish on the face.

2nd step:

Blend it well using a fine eye shadow brush or your fingertip with light patting strokes. Be sure it merges seamlessly with your own skin tone. **Tip:** It's best to apply concealer after foundation because concealer tends to be rubbed off when foundation is put over it.

3rd step:

Always set your concealer with a sheer, translucent powder to prevent creasing. This also helps the concealer last longer throughout the day. Voila! A face that looks radiant and flawless.

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CINDY Go looking fresh (left) with her natural do by Barbie Chan

'Chinita' charms

By Barbie Chan (0917-8460738)
Photos by Paolo Pineda (0918-9375498)

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF *CHINITA*. The first one is the almond shape with double eyelid type. This type usually has a crease on the upper eyelid. Amerasians and Eurasians usually have this kind of eyes.

The second type is the 100-percent pure Asian eyes—flat surface, no crease and lashes pointing down. It's harder to put makeup on this type of eyes. A lot of girls get frustrated every time they have their makeup done in the salon and end up looking like they have a black eye.

The problem here is a lot of us try to make the eyes bigger by drawing a fake crease. This may look good in pictures and from afar, but in person it can be quite scary. If you have no plans of having eye surgery, then the next best thing is to just love your eyes and use makeup as a tool to enhance and make yourself feel beautiful.

1. Choose a lighter shade of eye shadow, like pastel pink, bone, cream, white, and apply it to the entire eye area up to the brow bone.

2. Choose a darker shade of eye shadow and apply it to the bottom part of the eyelid. Start at the inner corners of the lid then sweep the eye shadow up to the outer corner of the eyes. Colors that are nice to try on include dark brown, copper, purple, blue , green and light gray.

3. Blend the two eye shadows. You should not see the line that separates the light and dark colors.

4. Apply a darker eyeliner on the upper lash. Start at the inner corner of your eye, then go toward the outer side. Try to stick to the roots of your lashes. Then put on a lighter shade of eyeliner on the lower lash. This will create more depth on the top lid so the eyes appear to be more open than they really are. Never ever use black liner on your lower lid. Your eyes will become smaller and harsher-looking.

5. Curl the lashes. This is the final and most important step. Curled lashes open up the eyes. You can use a standard metal curler or a heated one. It depends on what you're more comfortable with. Remember to be very gentle when curling the lashes. The hairs are very fragile and easily break. When curling, hold it for 10 to 15 seconds. Then apply mascara starting from the roots going to the end of the lashes. Two to three coats will do. The most popular shades are black and brown. But if you want to make a statement, choose a vibrant shade of purple or cobalt blue.

Having *chinita* eyes is not a liability. Just learn how to play up those beautiful eyes and you will realize you are unique, exotic and beautiful!

Troy Montero's skincare regimen

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THIS IS JUST MY OPINION—BUT ONE would be hard-pressed to find a Filipino actor who is physically more beautiful than Troy Montero. I have met him several times but the initial shock when I first met him seems repeated in the next occasions.

As I sat with him at the Belo Medical Plaza clinic, I was surprised at how easy it was to strike up a casual conversation with him as he did not have any airs about him which a guy with less than half his looks would be bursting at the seams with. He was there for a Thermage session and I was there to buy Glutathione + Lipoic acid, Age Defying cream and Belowhite from the pharmacy.

Of course, I could not resist asking the guy for his "beauty tips" and why at such a young age would he go for Thermage. From where I was sitting three feet away, there was not a sag, gaping pore, zit or wrinkle in sight. "It comes with being half-Caucasian," he said sheepishly.

You would think he was ultra vain to maintain those looks, but it turns out he adores the sun and couldn't be bothered to put sunblock on.

"I grew up in the States where everyone was dying to tan so I was particularly proud of my skin's ability to get dark," Troy said. "We (his friends and brothers) would run to the beach every chance we got and lie in the sun. "This (pointing to his golden arms) is sickly pale for my standards."

I pinched his cheek with his consent and compared it to mine and yes, although the skin was smooth and firm it wasn't as tightly packed as mine who hides from the sun and protects my skin with SPF 45 to 70 on a daily basis since I hit 15.

Dr. Vicki Belo explained to me what changes Troy should expect. His skin would be tighter; the brow line would be raised, giving his eyes a younger and wider-eyed look; pores would tighten and the tiny visible ones he has would practically disappear.

Paying particular attention to his cheek, Belo stated that the reason the skin there was loose was because of the weakened collagen fibers. Thermage would tighten the area by penetrating deep down through radio frequency without damaging the skin's surface.

The collagen-producing "factory," which becomes lazier and even dormant with age and constant environmental abuse, would then be shocked awake and stimulated into active production for up to six months, which would slow down eventually but whose effects would be felt for two to three years.

Troy tips

Troy shared a lot of tips with me. He confessed to being an insomniac and enjoys going out at night to meet up with friends, which makes him break out.

I commented that his skin was smooth and poreless; he said he owes that to the Acne Control Kit that he gets from Belo, an easy three-step program for day and night skincare consisting of soap, a pore-minimizing toner, and CHAT 2% (Clindamycin, Hydroquinone, Alum, and Tretinoin), which keeps his breakouts at bay.

Of course, sunblock during the day is now mandatory on the treated area. The kit costs P1,650 and lasts about two months or so. He now espouses safe tanning via Belo Quicktan, a term he coined himself.

The guy also has weaknesses and insecurities like everyone else. McDonald's sandwiches and fries are his indulgence and he tends to bulk up from working out.

"In show biz everyone is so lean," he said. "There was a time I gained some weight and bulked up. I looked buffed in person but on TV I looked like I was going to eat everybody. I lost the weight fast by going high protein and low carb along with my workout."

The same diet regimen worked for me, but I also broke out on my face, chest and back. He asked if I took amino acid supplements like L-Carnitine, and L-Tyrosine to help things along.

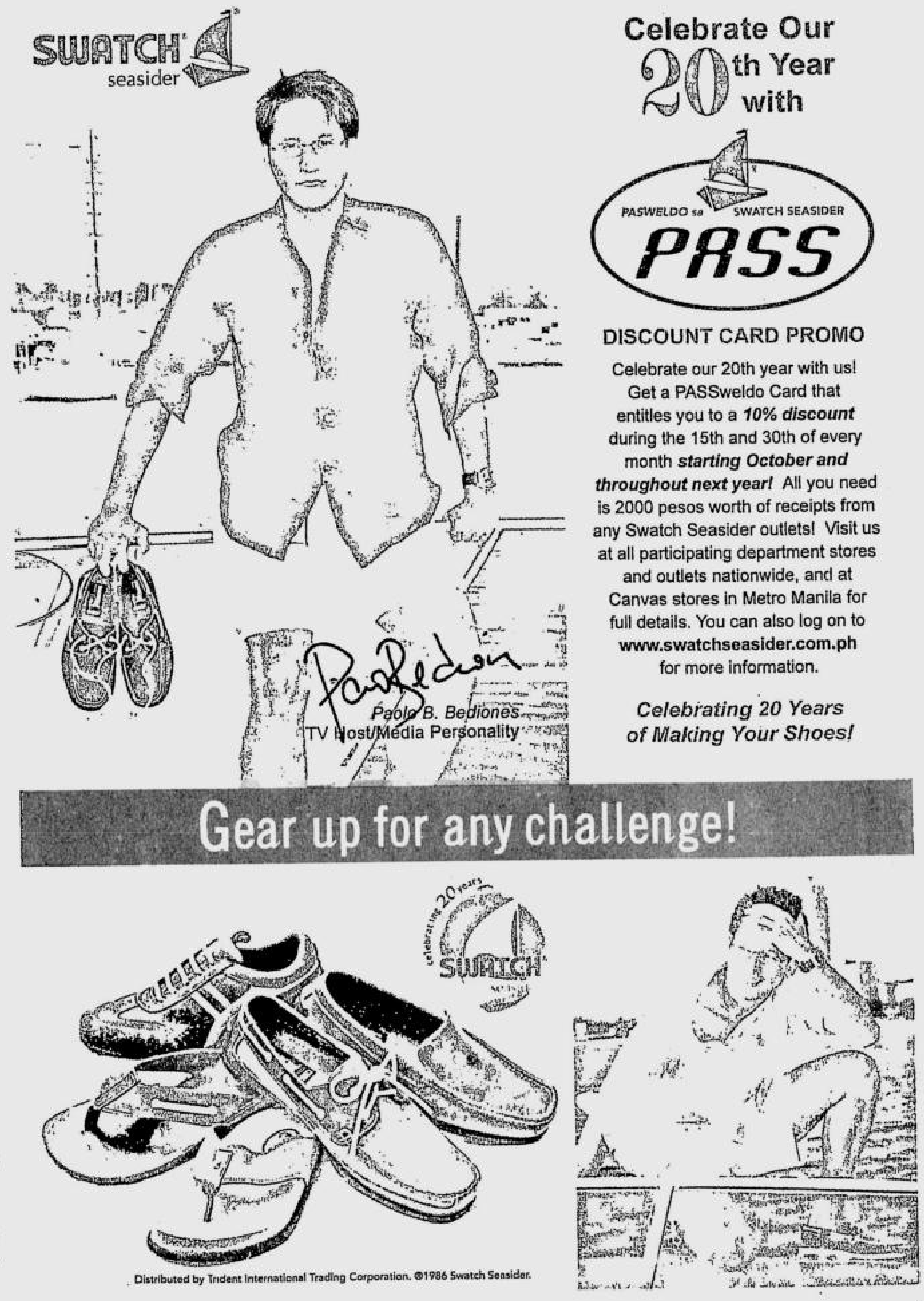
When I said yes, he said that a high-protein diet with amino acids was the cause of my uncontrollable breakouts and suggested I go for regular body scrubs and facials to make sure there is no dead skin blocking the pores to aggravate eruptions.

I actually learned a lot from that casual conversation. I thought that my obsession for beauty left me with very little to learn. Who would have thought I would get such eye-opening tips from one so genetically gifted and a man at that!

Pretty much a regular guy, Troy loves sports, cell phones, gadgets, and of course Aubrey Miles. Aside from being down-to-earth, extremely good-looking, and quick-witted, this man is a faithful and devoted boyfriend. Aubrey is one lucky girl!

For any questions regarding Troy's treatments, call the Belo hotline at 8442939.

E-mail me at kinnysalas@yahoo.com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The MAC is a Meralco interactive tool to help consumers:
Quickly compute the estimated electricity cost of home appliances
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Easily decide on the right appliances to match their needs
The use of the Info Kiosks in the malls is ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE! You can also access the MAC through our website:www.meralco.com.ph
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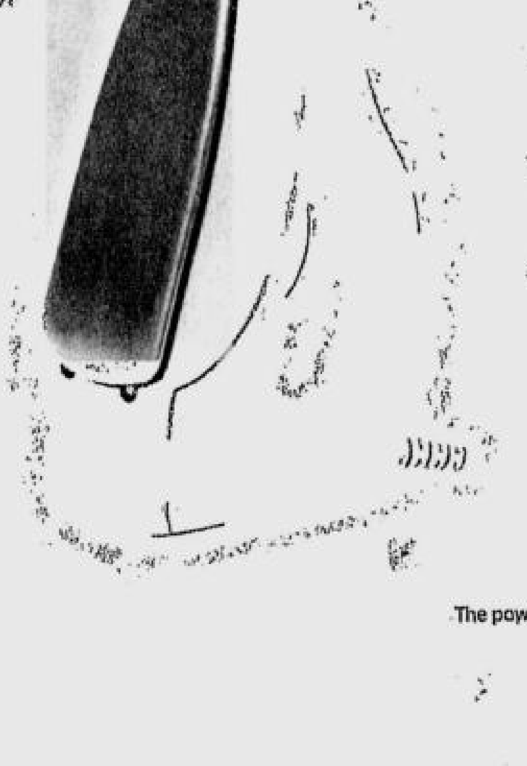
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You can lower your electricity bill by simply observing these energy saving tips:
1. Do all ironing at one time, preferably during cooler hours of the day.
2. Dampen clothes moderately. Excessively moistened clothes take longer to iron.
3. Ironing clothes washed with fabric softener reduces ironing time.
4. Switch off the electric iron during the last few minutes of ironing. The remaining heat will be enough to press the last few pieces of clothing.
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NIGHT glam

How to achieve a look suited to your skin

'Mestiza skin goes well with nude colors. Teeners can wear all the shimmers they like'–Criscy Bautista of L'Oreal

DAY wear

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RONNY SALVACION
MODEL CHESCA GARCIA
MAKEUP BY LOREAL PARIS

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

I WATCHED A BEAUTY shoot taking place. I actually learn more from watching pros "in action" than reading. So as the shoot was about to start, I sat beside Criscy Bautista of L'Oreal and kept asking questions from beginning to end, such as what look they were going for, what products they used, and why the choice of color.

I want to give you a feeling of also having been there. It is hoped that by being there vicariously, trying to understand what was going on, you, too, would learn.

On Chesca:

Mestiza skin can practically get away with murder. It suits most colors, especially nudes. The nude palette is one of my favorites. But it takes a lot of effort to achieve the "no-makeup" look. But if you have great skin to start with and the right makeup colors, you can learn how to do it yourself.

Aside from her killer looks, Chesca's skin is perfect. It's healthy, young and flawless. I just love her freckles and we want to make sure they're seen.

If you have the same skin tone as Chesca's, then nudes are the colors that will enhance and flatter your already defined features.

L'Oreal's makeup artist started off with the toner. After grooming Chesca's eyebrows, she applied a very light foundation to give the makeup a good base to hold on to.

Since nudes are a bit tricky to work with, having a good makeup base will help the colors to come out more and aid the makeup to stay on longer.

Then the makeup artist set the face with loose powder. Because Chesca has defined eyes, all she needed was an added curl on her lashes to open her eyes up even more. From there Criscy explained that she lightly brushed on a blush in Blush Delice Sugar Praline, and a lip color, Glam Shine Cream Sweet Nude. So Chesca was all set for the day with a fresh-day look.

A more dramatic feel was needed for the evening look, so the makeup artist added more color. Color Appeal Holographic Eyeshadow Bronze Meteorite did the trick. Then the artist lined the eyes, using an eye pencil. Then she brushed on Lash Architect in Black. Finally, lip tint in Glam Shine Gold Fizz was spread on the lips to complete the look.

email me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

PARTY CUTS WITH 923 JOEY

it's a *groove* thing!

The NBC Tent was certainly Halloween Headquarters as pirates, musketeers and other sword-wielding fashionistas flowed in and out of the tented fete at the Fort dubbed JOEY'S DAGGER AND CLOAK AFFAIR. Engineered by 923 Joey, the Halloween happening featured the aerial artistry of Douglas Nierras Powerdance and the swinging sounds of Mocha with Spin Art and 604 - and the Philippine Daily Inquirer was there to capture all the action! Party denizens chatted, mingled and strutted their stuff, hopping from booth to booth and loading up on treats - hot and cold alike - from Hot Shots, Jack's, Jill's, De Original Jamaican Pattie Shop, Haagen-Dazs, Fruit Magic and Ice Monster, while downing Colt Ice beer and Jägermeister shots. The spooky celebration hit a high note aptly enough around midnight when Joey listener Mac Dumaual snared the night's biggest booty: roundtrip tickets to Paris, France aboard Gulf Air. What a party! Daggers and cloaks were certainly all the rage this Halloween season, thanks to Joey!

Havin' a swinging time! NBC CEO Francis Lumen flanked by Miong and Benedict Lim

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Masked-keteer? Party animal Junjun Ablaza

Costumed comrades: Lady-pirate Kathy Ferrer and '20s Showgirl Jen Dizon

special thanks to PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Lash line

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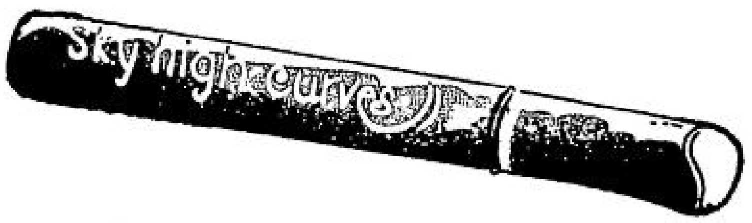
ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO



CURLING

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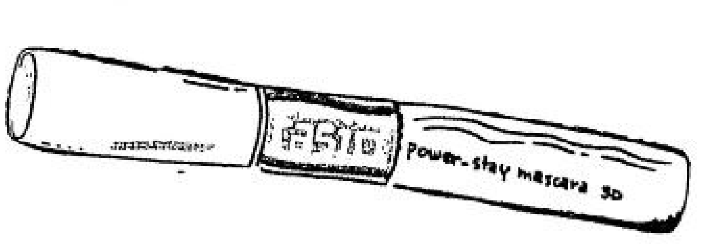

WATERPROOF

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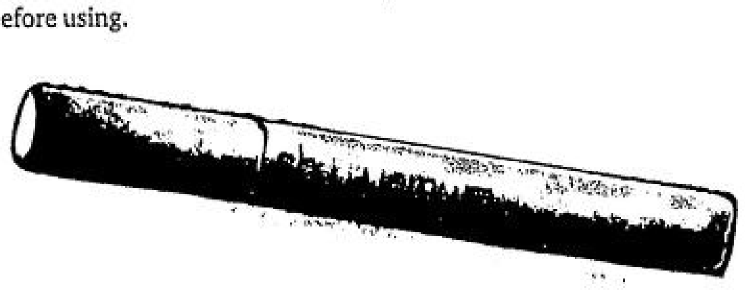

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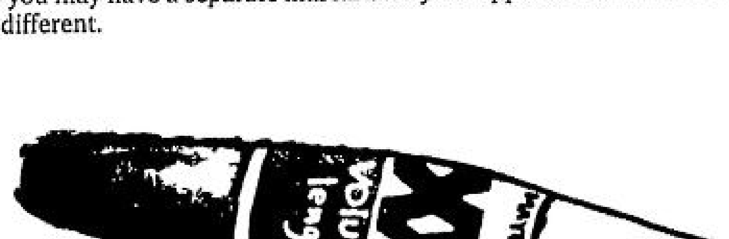

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Made with a thicker formula of waxes and silicone polymers, volumizing mascara is not only for those who have fine lashes but also for those who want a more dramatic look without having to put eye shadow. Two swipes is enough to prevent lashes from clamping up. It is also best to have a different mascara brush to separate lashes.

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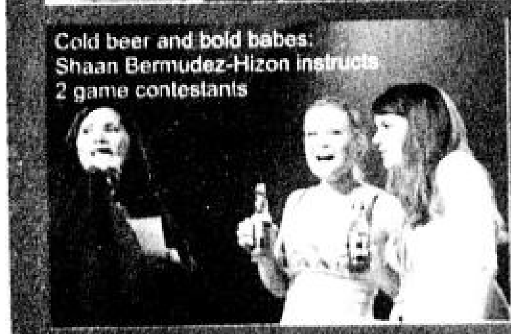

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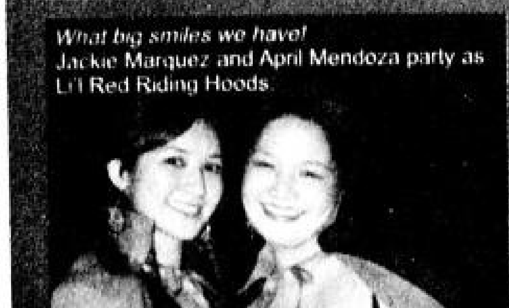

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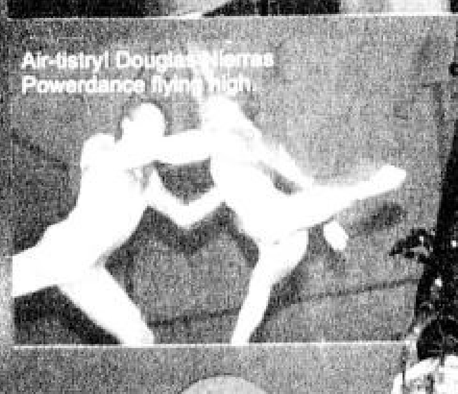

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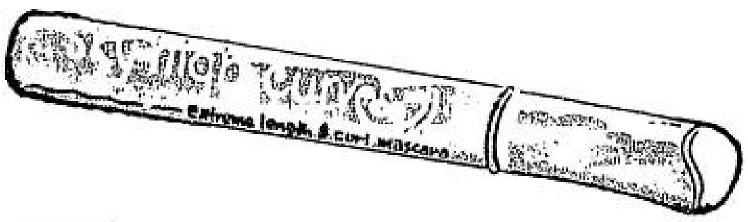

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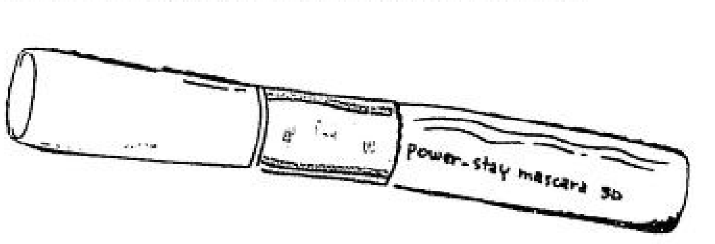

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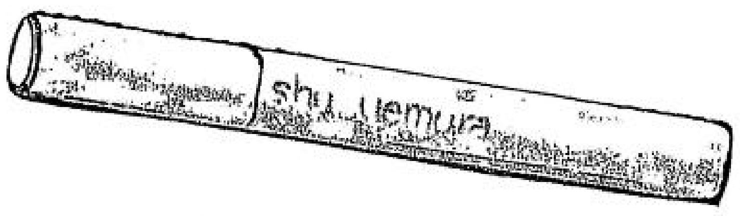

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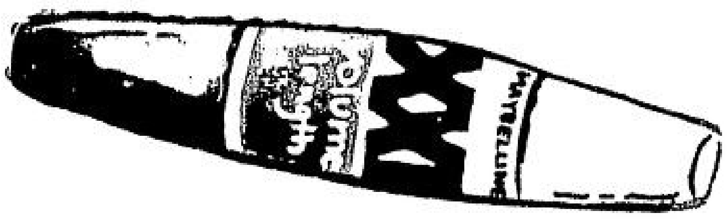

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